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LD041437 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Larijani at UN—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani emphasized to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that Iran "cannot wait a long time for international bodies to do justice," Tehran radio reported. In remarks cited by Radio Monte Carlo, the Iranian diplomat reiterated his country's position that the aggressor in the conflict must be identified before a cease-fire can be implemented. Iran's military mobilization at the fronts is "unprecedented," and "Iranian forces are ready to work efficiently when necessary," Larijani stressed.

Warning to Kuwait—In remarks cited by IRNA, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared that Iran will "never allow the U.S. to approach to our coastal waters and set up bases near the sensitive war zone," and he warned Kuwait against providing "provocative" floating bases to U.S. forces. Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah reiterated that his country will not allow "any foreign power" to establish a "military base or facilities on land or sea," KUNA reported.

Battle Reports—Iraqi warplanes scored an "accurate and effective hit" on a large maritime target off the Iranian coast 4 December, according to a military statement carried by Voice of the Masses radio. INA cited Lloyds confirmation that a Cypriot tanker sailing from Larak to Khark Island was damaged by an Iraqi air strike 2 December. The agency also reported a military statement denying an Iranian claim that an Iraqi Mirage was shot down in the "Nasr-8" operational region. For Iran's part, a communique reported by IRNA noted that Iranian artillery inflicted "heavy losses" on oil installations at Banmil.

Iran-France

Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam revealed that Iran and France held "unofficial, secret and direct" negotiations to resolve the embassies dispute, IRNA reported. The deputy minister was optimistic on the future of bilateral relations and stated that Iran is willing to take reciprocal actions to improve ties. Another Iranian official cited by the agency denied that two French hostages in Lebanon had been freed in exchange for Iranian translator Vahid Gorji.

Israeli-Palestinian Tension

The PFLP-GC issued a communique in Damascus claiming responsibility for the 1 December attack on IDF soldiers patrolling the security fence in Rafah on the Israeli-Egyptian border, AFP reported. Egyptian sources in Rafah told *Ha'aretz* that security in the area has been reinforced.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told Jerusalem television that the perpetrators of the 25 November attack at Qiryat Shemona "will not emerge unscathed." According to Beirut radio, Israel has taken a "new escalatory step" by redeploying the Golani Brigade, which invaded Lebanon in 1982, in the central sector where the brigade is establishing positions in the Al-Khiyam-Ibil al-Saqi-Maydun triangle.

Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, told Voice of Lebanon radio that the Israelis are expected to retaliate for the Palestinian attacks by launching a "hammer strike against Palestinian camps or some other areas" or a "limited military operation." 'Arafat noted that the Israeli response may have been delayed by an inability to obtain U.S. approval for a "major military operation." The PLO leader advised that Palestinian forces not be asked to withdraw in implementation of the camps agreement until the "extent of the Israeli strike is known" lest certain areas become an "easy target."

Sudan

Talks With Ethiopia—Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Miriam met in Kampala for talks on bilateral relations, Addis Ababa radio reported. In remarks cited by SUNA, Sudanese Foreign Minister Ma'mun Sanadah stated that the discussions were held "in an atmosphere of frankness and clarity." The commander of the Sudanese Armed Forces told the press that "measures to recapture Kurmuk are going well," the agency reported.

Governor Dismissed—The governor of Bahr al-Ghazal was relieved of his post and charged with "corruption," according to a Cabinet decree reported by SUNA.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Unity Meeting—In a speech to the second joint session of the General People's Committee and the YAR Council of Ministers carried by Tripoli television, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi detailed the historical ties between the two countries, called on officials to direct their actions toward the goal of "complete political unity," and outlined a series of "challenges" faced by the Arab peoples. The meeting has "chacteristics of defiance, revolution, and unity" because it goes against "imperialist" attempts to keep a "stategic region" powerless, Al-Qadhdhafi declared.

Diplomat Expelled From Kenya—The Libyan charge d'affaires in Nairobi has been ordered to leave due to his "gross interference in the internal affairs of Kenya," KNA reported, noting that the charge had previously been summoned to receive a Foreign Ministry note protesting his "undiplomatic activities." The JANA international affairs editor denied reports that Libya has aided a Kenyan student group in fomenting revolution.

Libya is not responsible for "objective conditions and circumstances" which may give rise to "revolutionary foundations," the editor declared.

Mauritania

The State Security Court ended an 18-day trial of defendants charged with involvement in an unsuccessful coup attempt of 22 October, Noukachott radio reported, noting that 3 of the accused were sentenced to death; 15 received life imprisonment and 23 prison terms of 5 to 20 years; and 7 were acquitted. BBC World Service noted that all the defendants are members of the Toucouleur, a main black ethnic group, and that those receiving the death penalty have 48 hours to appeal for clemency from the head of state, failing which they will be executed by firing squad.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Sends 'Urgent' Message to Gorbachev

JN041248 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today received the Soviet ambassador in Sanaa and handed him a message for CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. It has been learned from Palestinian sources that the message—described as important and urgent—deals with current developments in the Middle East and the Palestinian question on the eve of the Washington summit between Reagan and Gorbachev.

Voice of Lebanon Interviews Yasir 'Arafat

NC031545 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Voice of Lebanon reporter Johnny Munayyar has conducted an interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in which he deals with a number of issues being raised on both the Palestinian and Arab level. In response to the operation in Qiryat Shemona, 'Arafat expects a major Israeli strike similar to the 1978 Israeli action in southern Lebanon. He attributes the delay in the Israeli response to U.S. intervention. He also describes his meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Amman as cordial and says that it was a good beginning, whose effects will be reflected positively in the Palestinian and Lebanese arenas. [passage omitted]

What was said in the interview follows:

[Begin recording] [Munayyar] Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], what is your comment on the operation that took place in northern Israel, in the Qiryat Shemona area?

['Arafat] You mean in northern Palestine.

[Munayyar] In northern Palestine.

['Arafat] This operation proved there are no barriers, obstacles, or impossibilities for a fedayeen who has decided to sacrifice his life. It also proved that the legend about Israeli security is unfounded and that Israel cannot maintain its security through military power and radar systems, but through holding an international conference to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and to achieve the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people.

[Munayyar] Regarding the operation in northern Palestine, it seems that the PFLP-GC, led by Ahmad Jibril, has claimed responsibility. It is known that the PFLP-GC is opposed to your policy.

['Arafat] Members of Ahmad Jibril's organization are present in the camps, aren't they?

[Munayyar] Yes.

['Arafat] They are also fighting under the command of the PLO. Ultimately, all pour into the mill of the Palestinian people. Irrespective of whether members of the PFLP-GC or the Palestine Liberation Front carried out the operation—as you know, two fronts claimed responsibility— what matters is that the one who carried it out was a Palestinian or an Arab fighter. This is what matters.

[Munayyar] The statement claiming responsibility for the operation was issued in Damascus, not in one of the Palestinian camps. Don't you think that this has political significance?

['Arafat] I think we must take it into consideration.

[Munayyar] Can you be clearer?

['Arafat] In other words, the possibilities are wide open.

[Munayyar] Abu 'Ammar, it is strange that the operation was followed by a second operation on the Egyptian-Palestinian border in southern Palestine. Does this mean a resumption of tension on the Palestinian-Egyptian borders?

['Arafat] This is what I think. I will not go into the details of the operation that took place south of Rafah [words indistinct] on the dividing line. What matters is that operations have not stopped and will not stop as long as Israel persists in its position, which denies the Palestinian people their inalienable national rights. We are not asking for the moon. [preceding sentence in English] We support international legitimacy and the UN resolutions. However, if the arrogance of power [last three words in English] possesses the Israeli occupier, let him know that we hold an olive branch in one hand and a rifle in the other.

[Munayyar] Regarding the operation in northern Palestine, it has been said that this was in response to the results of the Amman Arab summit. Is this also your opinion?

['Arafat] Please put aside the absurd speculations made by someone sitting in his office and writing an article. This is of no interest to those of us fighting in the field.

[Munayyar] What do you think the Israeli response to this operation will be?

['Arafat] Just as Rabin has said. As you know, an estimated 40,000 to 60,000 troops are now concentrated in northern Palestine. Some of them have entered southern Lebanon and are present in the areas of Al-Rayhan, Al-Bayyadah, Zaghlah, Al-'Ayshiyah, in the central sector, and in the western Al-Bayyadah area. We must consider all of this; that is, that Rabin is thinking about a major operation similar to the one in 1978 or an air hammer strike operation ['amaliyat tayaran darbat matraqah]. Perhaps there are differences inside the Israeli command. Some support an operation against the Syrian bases located near the Palestinian or Lebanese bases. All this is being considered and we are taking it into account.

[Munayyar] Do you believe Israel is planning a major operation in Lebanon, or at least an invasion of southern Lebanon?

['Arafat] There are two possibilities, according to our information. Either the Israeli forces will confine themselves to a hammer strike against the Palestinian camps and some other areas, or they will launch a limited military operation similar to [words indistinct].

[Munayyar] Why do you think the Israelis have not yet responded?

['Arafat] For two reasons. The first is the Soviet warning and the second is the U.S. Government's disapproval of an action against [word indistinct]. This (?requires) an international decision that Israel cannot obtain.

[Munayyar] So do you think the U.S. Administration is now more sympathetic to the Palestinian people than before?

['Arafat] No, this is a major issue; we cannot say this, but I can say that the U.S. Administration does not want an operation that could jeopardize the international situation, now that a summit between the superpowers—I mean the Reagan-Gorbachev summit—is so close. I do not think the two superpowers would tolerate something like this, something that could involve a clash between Israeli and (?Syrian) forces. However, the superpowers could tolerate a limited operation, one with clear-cut objectives, against Palestinian and Lebanese targets.

[Munayyar] In the event of a large-scale Israel operation, how would the Palestinian forces respond and how, in your opinion, would the Syrian forces respond, particularly in light of the reconciliation between you and the Syrian president?

['Arafat] Would you explain your question?

[Munayyar] I mean, do you think they would respond as they did in Lebanon in 1982?

['Arafat] No, I do not think so. As I told you before, Israel cannot launch a major military operation without U.S. approval. As yet there has been no U.S. approval for a major operation, although the United States is not against a limited operation.

[Munayyar] What has become of your reconciliation, or the turning over of a new leaf in your relationship, with the Syrian regime?

['Arafat] I was optimistic over my meeting with brother President al-Asad, which took place in the presence of His Excellency President Chedli Bendjedid. I was informed that President al-Asad had given his approval and blessing to the agreement in Algeria, which was an extension of the Sidon agreement to end the tragedy of the camps war. I thanked President al-Asad for his position. I hope that we can get over the camps crisis for good. This crisis has been going on for 2 and 1/2 years and such a thing has never befallen any other people. Even military troops in the two world wars never had to undergo a siege for 2 and 1/2 years, much less civilians and children. Therefore, I very much hope that President al-Asad's approval will be taken into account by Amal and others. [end recording]

'Arafat spoke further about his meeting with Al-Asad, saying that it covered the camps issue only. He revealed the existence of two memorandums drawn up by Syrian officials and a Palestinian response to these memorandums. He declined to assess Syrian-Palestinian relations until practical steps have been taken on the ground. Regarding a Palestinian withdrawal from the vicinity east of Sidon, 'Arafat said: We are ready to implement the agreement concluded in this respect.

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] We hope the agreement will be implemented simultaneously by both parties and not just by one party.

[Munayyar] You mean in the next few hours?

['Arafat] I also urge my brothers, both those working in the media and others, not to demand—before we know the extent of the Israeli strike—the withdrawal of the Palestinian forces and their concentration in one area, which would make them an easy target for the Israeli Air Force. The media should behave very responsibly at this particular time until we know what the forthcoming Israeli action will be.

[Munayyar] In other words, there will be no withdrawal from east of Sidon at present.

['Arafat] I will tell you that, at present, we are ready to implement what we have agreed upon. But, as you know, the agreement is a package deal. It involves the lifting of the siege, the release of detainees, permission for relief teams to rebuild the camps, and then the transfer of the Palestinian forces to a place to be determined by Brothers Walid Junblatt, Mustafa Sa'd, Nabih Birri, and others in the Lebanese nationalist movement.

[Munayyar] Are you confident there is a serious intent to implement the Amman summit resolutions?

['Arafat] As far as the Palestinians are concerned, I am 100 percent confident. As you know, I did not go to Amman to play games. The most important thing is that the resolution on the Palestinian issue was adopted unanimously. It was the only resolution about which there were no objections or reservations.

[Munayyar] At the beginning of the interview, you said that you have hopes for convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East. Will you explain the Palestinian view on this issue?

['Arafat] We are approaching the superpower summit, the Gorbachev-Reagan summit, on 8 December. They will undoubtedly discuss the hot international issues—they have already pinpointed eight such areas—in addition to holding talks on warheads, short- and intermediate-range missiles, the zero option, and the double-zero option. The first hotbed is the Gulf war and the situation there. The second, according to the Soviets, is the Middle East and the Palestinian issue, including the situation in Lebanon, of course. However, the Americans do not share the same view. They say that Afghanistan comes after the Gulf war, and then the Middle East issue.

Other hotbeds include Central America—as you know there is a [peace] agreement among the Latin American countries—and Cambodia. Regarding this latter issue, a dialogue is under way in Paris between Prince Sihanouk and the Cambodian prime minister, based on an initiative by the nonaligned countries. We are proud that we were among those who pushed for this initiative. The other points include South Africa, particularly Namibia versus the racist regime of Pretoria.

[Munayyar] But the Soviet ambassador in Lebanon denied that the Lebanese issue would be raised at the superpower summit.

['Arafat] As long as the Palestinian question is going to be discussed... ['Arafat changes thought] Some brothers in Lebanon make a point of separating the Palestinian and the Lebanese issues from the Middle East issue. No, let me tell you something, Brother John, these two issues are part of the Middle East issue and each Lebanese must understand this. We and the heroic Lebanese people have shared the bad times, not the good times. We are paying the price together and it is a high price. As you see, we have been paying this price since 1975. It is time for our women and children, for us, to have relief. For the Lebanese side, this basically requires inter-Lebanese reconciliation without any foreign intervention.

For the Palestinian side, it requires an awareness of the facts and variables. The PNC has adopted a clear-cut position in dealing with the ongoing developments. The most important thing—and I appeal to all my brothers here—is that the Lebanese achieve unity, the unity of Lebanon, of its land, people, and institutions. Otherwise, by God, the crisis will not involve the Lebanese people alone, but the entire Arab homeland, God forbid. I hope that we will manage together and I say together because we have made a decision to provide all the facilities and assistance needed for the unity, stability, and security of this people and their institutions.

[Munayyar] What do you think the results of the superpower summit will be with regard to the Lebanese and Palestinian situations?

['Arafat] Naturally, they will decide how each of the eight hot issues I have already mentioned is going to be handled. I do not want to jump to conclusions, but, for the first time, we have a friend, the Soviet Union, which is using its weight to make the Middle East issue No 2 on the summit agenda. Of course, it will be discussed, whether it is No 2 or 3, and they will decide whether to do without the international conference—and in this case we will deal with the matter—or to hold it—in which case the conference's preparatory committee will meet at the beginning of 1988. Speaking of the preparatory committee, let me draw your attention to the UN resolution issued 48 hours ago. It notes the importance of convening the international conference's preparatory committee and entrusts the UN secretary general with handling this issue. The resolution won a unanimous vote in the UN General Assembly.

[Munayyar] Abu 'Ammar, moving on to the issue of the hostages in Lebanon, Auque and Normandin [French hostages released on 27 November 1987] said they were detained by Palestinians in the southern suburb. What is your comment?

['Arafat] Do you think there are Palestinians who are able to live in the southern suburb, John? God forgive you. You are fully aware of the situation. Their government is also aware of the situation. Palestinians are butchered outside the camps. You know that. The Palestinians cannot even live in the camps in peace. You know about the violation of houses, honor, and so forth. What happened, as you know, was the result of an agreement, a deal. Thank God, I had nothing to do with it. The French Government knows exactly with whom it was dealing when it secured the release of the two hostages. I think that the protest to France by Britain and the United States over the deal is proof of this. Therefore, the claim is so ridiculous that it does not deserve a response. Their government knows, anyway.

[Munayyar] You think that there was a deal. Are you against the deal, Abu 'Ammar?

['Arafat] I think an agreement was reached. I was following this secret agreement from a distance. You know me, I do not live in an ivory tower. I know what is going on even in France and in Europe. We are not an ordinary figure in the area, John.

[Munayyar] Were you against the deal?

['Arafat] No, by God. Basically, I am against the kidnapping of innocent people [words indistinct]. France announced the exchange of [words indistinct]. It is free to do whatever it wants. But I hope it will not (?implicate) the Palestinians or the PLO. I think that the French Government is aware of this. Therefore, if you have noticed, Auque only said this once, in Beirut, when he was still under threat. But once he had left Beirut he said nothing of the sort.

[Munayyar] Abu 'Ammar, in your opinion, what was Syria's role in this deal?

['Arafat] Do you have to involve me in this, John? I think that the deal was concluded directly with Iran.

[Munayyar] Let us end this interview where we started it, Abu 'Ammar. We want to ask you about the timing of the opening of the PLO office—rather, not the opening, but the raising once again of the Palestinian flag—in Cairo, and the operation which took place on the Egyptian-Palestinian border. What is your opinion?

['Arafat] What does one event have to do with the other? Do you also want to implicate me in this operation, John? Have a bit of mercy on us, man. Regarding the raising of the Palestinian flag and the reopening of the office, I received a promise from President Husni Mubarak during the last meeting between us in Addis Ababa, when we were both attending the OAU summit and the declaration of the Ethiopian Republic. His excellency the president promised me this. He was sincere as usual. Indeed, he undertook this magnificent fraternal and pan-Arab initiative of reopening the PLO offices. I thank him [words indistinct].

[Munayyar] Abu 'Ammar, don't you support any operation against the Israelis?

['Arafat] Yes.

[Munayyar] Therefore, you support the operation which took place on the southern border of Palestine.

['Arafat] Any operation against any Israeli occupying my country... [sentence left incomplete].

[Munayyar] Do you have a final word to say?

['Arafat] As a final word, I say to the Lebanese people: Thank you, thank you, thank you. We will remain together until, God willing, we see peace and security and until Lebanon regains its nobility, magnificence, strength, democracy, and its voice which used to reverberate not only in the Arab area but in the entire world. Our voice used to reach every part of the world. I want Lebanon to regain its voice, because it is the voice of the Arabs and a voice that promotes and defends—promotes so that we can advance and defends the Arab right. I extend my best wishes, love, and sentiments to this heroic people.

[Munayyar] But there is one small point, Abu 'Ammar.

['Arafat] Yes.

[Munayyar] You have changed your attitude toward the Syrian presence in Lebanon in the past 3 months. Was the Amman summit the only reason for this change?

['Arafat] I have always supported Lebanon's unity and Lebanese reconciliation without foreign intervention. This has been my position and I expressed it at the summit. I said this at the summit and I said it to President Amin al-Jumayyil. I reiterate that we support Lebanese reconciliation and independence and are against any foreign intervention from any quarter. I said this with absolute clarity and frankness at the Arab summit. I said it before the Arab summit and I will say it after the Arab summit.

[Munayyar] Thank you, Abu 'Ammar.

['Arafat] Thank you. [end recording]

Palestinian Official on PLO Office Closure

JN031156 Doha QNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Washington, 3 Dec (QNA)—The U.S. Government moved quickly today to close the Palestinian Information Office in Washington following the verdict issued by the Federal Court in Washington which supported the government's decision to close the office. An informed source in the Department of Justice told the QNA correspondent in Washington that the Department made arrangements to close the office officially at noon today. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the QNA correspondent, Hasan 'Abd al-Rahman, director of the Palestinian Information Office, said the decision to close the office has no legal bases but was made for political reasons. He noted that the office is not only an information tool for the PLO but is also a symbol of the official Palestinian presence in Washington. Therefore, he added, the decision to close the office has as its target the Palestinian tool and information role in the U.S. arena. Hasan 'Abd al-Rahman also said that the office expresses the official PLO views to various public opinion sectors. Hence, those responsible for the office closure are the Israeli Government, headed by Shamir, as well as the Israeli lobby and partisans in both the U.S. Administration and Congress.

The Palestinian official pointed to the link between the office closure and the clamor about it, on the one hand, and the coming U.S. elections on the other. He expressed the belief that this subject was exploited by some presidential candidates to obtain funds and votes from the Jewish community in the United States. [passage omitted]

Hasan 'Abd al-Rahman also expressed his belief that the decision to close the office is in line with the U.S. stand against Palestinian representation. He said the decision was an Israeli one, that the tool was the candidates for presidency, and the executor was the U.S. Department of State whose decision to close the office is in harmony with its general policy toward the Palestinian question. He added: The decision to close the office is part of an operation to strike at the PLO. It is also an attempt to cancel the legitimacy of all that is linked to the PLO and to the Palestinian question in general in the U.S. arena. [passage omitted]

PFLP-GC Claims Rafah Attack on Israelis

NC031649 Paris AFP in English 1629 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus, Dec 3 (AFP)—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), a Damascus-based group headed by Ahmad Jibril, claimed responsibility Thursday for an attack on Israeli soldiers two days earlier near the Egyptian border. The PFLP-GC had previously claimed a November 26 attack in northern Israel, where a man killed six Israeli soldiers and wounded seven after penetrating the border by motorized hang-glider.

In a communique released here, the group said two of its men had "killed one Israeli soldier and wounded two others" at dawn Tuesday near the barbed-wire fence that divides the Egyptian and Israeli-controlled sectors of Rafah, a Palestinian city located on the border between Egypt and the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip.

"The two fighters of the PFLP-GC also fired on an Israeli watchtower, killing another Zionist soldier, and withdrew safe and sound," said the communique by the pro-Syrian group, which opposes the authority of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

An Israeli [words indistinct] incident and said he hoped Egypt would find those responsible.

PFLP Predicts Israeli Attack on Sidon Area

JN040746 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] At a time when a state of general alert is in force in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon as a precaution against Israeli retaliation for the recent commando operation in upper Galilee, the PFLP has issued a statement in Damascus accusing Israel of preparing for a large-scale attack on the positions of Palestinian and nationalist forces in the Sidon area of southern Lebanon. The statement asserts that current Israeli preparations and troop concentrations in the Jazzin area and the security belt and Israel's daily reconnaissance flights over Lebanon portend a limited retaliatory operation against a Palestinian base in Lebanon.

Letter by Qiryat Shemona 'Martyr' Published

PM021301 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Nov 87 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "*Al-Sharq al-Awsat* Publishes Text of Tunisian Martyr's Letter to President Zine El Abidine"]

[Text] London, *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*—*Al-Sharq al-Awsat* has obtained the text of the letter sent by Tunisian fedayeen Miloud Benajah Nouma, martyred during the daring, heroic fedayeen operation against the Israeli camp at the settlement of Qiryat Shemona, to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali before he and his heroic companions took off in their microlight aircraft. In his letter, the Tunisian martyr stressed that fighting Zionists is a pan-Arab duty that takes precedence over any other duties. The following is the text of the letter:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. To the great Tunisian people; to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali; to the sons of our people in the Arab Maghreb, in Tunisia, in the west of the Arab nation, in any part of this pure land from the ocean to the Gulf: We are proud that heroes from among us died in the arena of confrontation against the French colonialists, who tried to destroy our history, language, and beliefs.

The colonialists tried to distort our nationalist and political culture; they tried to keep us away from the major troubles befalling our brothers in the Arab Mashriq, especially what the sons of our people in Palestine are exposed to through perfidious Zionist gangs. But they did not succeed; their attempts quickly failed, especially after the revolution of a million martyrs in Algeria. Palestine is the cradle of religions; it is Arab territory; it is an integral part of the Arab nation in which Zionists have rampaged and committed one massacre after another.

I, a Tunisian Arab fighter within the Palestinian revolution ranks and the PFLP-GC ranks, have decided to prove that fighting Zionists is a pan-Arab duty that takes precedence over any other duties. I have chosen martyrdom, certain that this choice is the practical reply to humiliation and capitulation. A salute to my people in Tunisia and the Arab Maghreb from myself and my companions in the operation: the Syrian Arab and the two Palestinian Arabs who, as I, have chosen the road of martyrdom to achieve victory.

[Signed] Fighter Pilot Miloud Benajah Nouma

Communique Describes Amal Attack on Shatila

JN022004 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1810 GMT 2 Dec 87

["Text" of military communique issued by the PLO on 1 December; place not given]

[Text] Some agent parties in the Amal Movement have pursued their attempts to exacerbate the security and military state of affairs in the area of our people's camps in Beirut today. Some of these agent elements opened sniper fire on various parts of the Shatila camp at 1630 today, 30 November 1987. As a result of these criminal attacks, one of our women was martyred while entering the camp.

These criminal attacks by these agent elements continue while the Zionist enemy is preparing for a large-scale military operation against our Palestinian and Lebanese people. This is just additional proof of the conspiratorial role of these parties within the U.S.-Zionist scheme to partition Lebanon into sectarian statelets and balkanize the Arab region.

Reportage on Anti-Israeli Combat Operations

5 Attacks Detailed

JN012035 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Dec 87

[Communique issued by military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] Our heroes operating inside the occupied homeland carried out five heroic operations against enemy military vehicles in Qalqilyah, Qabatiyah, Jabalyah, Rafah, and Jerusalem on the evening of 29 November 1987. As a result of these operations, the enemy sustained losses in personnel and equipment. The following are the operations:

1. At 1715 our revolutionaries attacked an enemy military vehicle with incendiary bombs while it was passing through the center of occupied Qalqilyah. As a result, the vehicle was damaged and its driver was wounded.

2. At 1720 our revolutionaries attacked an enemy patrol vehicle in the Qabatiyah area. As a result, two members of the patrol were wounded. One of them sustained serious injuries.

3. At 1750 our revolutionaries attacked an enemy patrol with an incendiary bomb. As a result, one of the patrol members was seriously wounded.

4. At 1815 our heroes attacked with incendiary bombs and hand grenades the Zionist military governor's vehicle while it was passing through occupied Rafah near the police station. The military governor's vehicle was completely destroyed and the governor was wounded. The driver and his female companions were also wounded. The enemy radio admitted the operation and said the fact that the military governor escaped death was a miracle.

5. While the Zionist security forces were conducting search operations in Jerusalem, they discovered an explosive in front of an Army station in the Gilo area in Jerusalem. While trying to dismantle the bomb at 1915, it exploded in the hands of the expert, wounding him.

Jerusalem Power Station Bombed

JN021943 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1810 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Communique by military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date not given]

[Text] Pursuant to instructions, our heroes from the Ibrahim 'Abd al-'Aziz martyr group operating inside the occupied territories penetrated enemy security measures and reached the main power station in the southern part of occupied Jerusalem. They planted time bombs in the station in spite of the presence of guards and technicians. Our revolutionaries then returned safely to base.

At 1815 on 30 November 1987, the time bombs exploded. The explosions were heard in many parts of Jerusalem and spread fear among enemy ranks. The explosions heavily damaged the main power station and many parts of the city suffered a power outage lasting until the early hours of the next day. An unspecified number of enemy elements present in the station were wounded. Revolution until victory.

'Military Vehicle' Attacked

JN021958 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1810 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Communique by military spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date and place not given]

[Text] At 1930 on 30 November 1987, one of the revolutionaries of the Hani Jawhariyah martyr group operating inside the occupied homeland attacked a Zionist military vehicle with incendiary bombs while it was passing near Burqa village. The attack wounded two enemy soldiers and damaged the vehicle. Immediately after the operation, large Zionist forces sealed off the scene of the operation and carried out a large-scale search campaign in Burqa village to apprehend our revolutionary who fled the area. Revolution until victory.

Egypt

Plot To Assassinate Mubarak Reported

NC031738 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1645 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] The weekly magazine *The Middle East Insider* reports in this week's edition that a plan to assassinate Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is being prepared. The magazine says that Egypt has become a target for Syria, Libya, and Iran since the Amman summit and that the Iranian media are warning that Mubarak will meet the same fate as his predecessor, Al-Sadat. Damascus also realizes that Cairo is thwarting its plans more than any other Arab capital.

The magazine adds that last June, Iran succeeded in establishing an Egyptian Hizballah organization. Its supporters were seen at the demonstrations that took place on 2 November at 'Ayn Shams University, when Israeli and American flags were burned. The magazine goes on to say that members of the Egypt's Revolution Organization, which is controlled by Syrian and Libyan intelligence, have infiltrated Egyptian intelligence. Khalid Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, who is the mastermind of this organization, fled abroad in September after being accused of stirring up the people against the Egyptian regime.

Magazine Wants Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir Arrested

NC031211 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Two days after the Rafah attack, the Egyptian pro-government magazine *Al-Musawwar* has called for the arrest of Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, son of late President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir, to question him in connection with the case of Egypt's Nasirite Revolution, which has claimed responsibility for several operations against Israelis and Americans in Egypt.

Meanwhile, former Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali yesterday accused a small extremist organization of responsibility for the Rafah operations. It should be recalled that Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir is now in Yugoslavia.

Ghali Interviewed on Summit, Arab Relations

JN011214 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM
in Arabic 26 Nov 87 p 21

[Interview with Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by Farhan al-Wuqayyan in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [*Al-Ra'y al-'Amm*] What is your evaluation of the Arab summit recently held in Amman? Were its resolutions commensurate with the Arab issues which were presented to the conference, such as the Gulf war?

[Ghali] From a pan-Arab viewpoint, I say that this conference, with its resolutions and recommendations, was a step on the right path; the path of accord and Arab solidarity, of closing ranks, and of eliminating causes of differences in the Arab fold. This augurs well for putting the region on the threshold of a new phase of pooling all Arab potentials and capabilities for a joint Arab action. Undoubtedly, the convocation of the extraordinary Arab summit is in itself a positive step and an indication of a collective awareness, and the beginning of the Arabs retaking the initiative concerning their vital issues. To be realistic, I would like to state that the recommendations of the extraordinary Arab summit did not realize all the Arab people's aspirations. However, it suffices to say that if these recommendations are implemented properly they will realize a consensus on condemning the Iraq-Iran war, despite the state of fragmentation, differences, and conflicts which is currently prevailing in the Arab nation. The summit's statement was clear on the Arab countries' commitment to a unified stand on the Iranian aggression stemming from commitment to the Arab League charter and the collective Arab defense pact. It also suffices that these recommendations included a consensus on holding an international conference for peace as the only suitable means to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict in a peaceful, just, and comprehensive way based on restoring all occupied Arab territories and regaining the inalienable national rights of the Palestinain people.

It also suffices that these recommendations have affirmed the conference's keen desire for Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and territorial safety. The recommendations also condemned all forms of international terrorism. But still, the Arab summit will continue to be responsible for following up these resolutions and standing against anyone who tries to undermine their serious character and effectiveness so that the Arab potentialities may may be steered on the right course, as they alone can extricate this nation from its political and economic crises and restore its absent will.

[*Al-Ra'y al-'Amm*] Certain Arab countries, which attended the Amman summit, had serious stands concerning Egypt during the summit. What is your comment?

[Ghali] The insistence on Egypt's return did not start from Cairo but from Arab capitals and from the Arab people's conscience throughout the Arab homeland. This overwhelming tide had emerged before the convocation of the summit in what looked like a consensus on resuming Arab relations with Egypt and on Egypt's return to the Arab fold. Also, during the summit Egypt was the absent party which was present and its return was the Arab leaders' major concern. Moreover, the tendency toward Egypt's return seemed dominant since the summit's first meeting and during the peripheral meetings. The Arab leaders realized that reality, logic, and duty made it incumbent on them to work for the enhancement of the Arab order and to rectify the strategic balance in which Egypt constitutes a major factor.

The initiative to raise the question of Egypt's return at the summit expressed the feelings of the overwhelming majority of Arab kings and presidents who expressed the need to rectify the defect in the balance of power in the region by including Egypt in joint Arab action.

In fact, what took place after the recent summit, such as the restoration of diplomatic relations with Egypt by certain Arab countries, was just a formality. Egyptian-Arab relations were in existence before the summit through daily interaction. The special character of Egypt's relationship with the Arab world is based on an important reality; namely, Egypt has always taken the initiative concerning crucial issues in order to achieve pan-Arab goals. Proceeding from this understanding, Egyptian diplomacy has tried in the past to eliminate those Arab conflicts and differences that made the nation vulnerable. [passage omitted]

[*Al-Ra'y al-'Amm*] The Gulf war is currently witnessing serious developments, especially after Iran announced general mobilization. The question is: Is there anything new in the Egyptian stand on this war?

The danger looms on the horizon and threatens further deterioration into warfare, which caused the loss of about one million people from the sons of the two warring countries. The recent escalation became a source of extreme international tension. It also caused extreme concern to the stability and peace-loving forces. The Egyptian stand toward the Iraq-Iran war has not changed. Egypt has supported UN Security Council Resolution 598 since its issuance and continues to believe that it must be implemented, considering that ending the ongoing war is the drastic solution to the tense situation on the Gulf coast and in its waters—the situation which has become a threat endangering one of the most important sources of international energy. [passage omitted]

Delegate's UN General Assembly Speech

NC012119 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Dec 87

[Text] United Nations, 1 Dec (MENA)—Egypt has called for an immediate halt to the Iraq-Iran war and for commitment to the implementation of Resolution 598, issued by the UN Security Council on 20 July 1987. Egypt has also called on all the forces that support the Islamic peoples' right to peace, stability, and development to take immediate action to confront this war which is only wasting resources and causing division.

This came in a speech which Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi, permanent Egyptian delegate at the United Nations, delivered during a debate on the Middle East issue at the General Assembly today.

The Egyptian delegate said: My country has opposed this war since its outbreak. Egypt condemns the continued determination of one party in this war not to halt it in accordance with the conditions unanimously accepted by the international community represented by UN Security Council Resolution 598. Egypt also warns of the dangers to which an expansion of this war or further aggression against Arab territories, whether in Kuwait or any other fraternal Arab state in the Gulf, could lead.

Badawi added that in rejecting and opposing this armed confrontation between brothers in Islam, Egypt prays to Almighty God that the present era and events will not go down in history as a process of aborting the development of Islamic societies or as a hindrance to their efforts to develop these societies.

Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi went on to say: Egypt has taken action to confront the problems of this region. My country is the heart of this region, due to its balanced foreign policy that is designed to serve the supreme pan-Arab goals. This policy also seeks to serve strategic interests, the aim of which is to defend all the territory of the Arab homeland and the Arab people's right to achieve peace and stability free of any threat from foreign or regional forces.

The permanent Egyptian delegate continued: On this basis, Egypt has exerted efforts for a Palestinian settlement and adopted a stand in the Arab-Israeli conflict. It has sought to encourage the peaceful tendencies of the parties to the conflict, and urged the commencement of a phase of energetic negotiations to reach a settlement. In doing so, Egypt is spurred on by its long experience of successful negotiations and by the knowledge that it has achieved settlements through its historic initiatives. The first of these was Egypt's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 242 which, in the view of the international community, constitutes a suitable basis for the political settlement of the general Arab-Israeli conflict. In addition, there was a series of well-prepared Egyptian offers and actions during the 1970's, before, during, and after the armed conflict of October 1973, which culminated in the decisive step taken in November 1977. This step gave a definite impetus to peace efforts and led to fundamental changes of approach where a settlement of the conflict was concerned. No one can deny these changes or their effects and repercussions.

In his speech, Egypt's permanent delegate to the United Nations said the Arab party has become more willing to participate in a peaceful political settlement to the conflict through negotiations conducted within the framework of an international peace conference. The recent Amman summit reiterated its adherence to the basic features of this position, he stated.

With regard to Israel, Ambassador Badawi said: There have been some changes that were promoted and encouraged by Egypt, in the hope that they would develop to a point where they would become the major element in

Israel's policy and peace drive. He called on Israel to recognize that the Arab and Palestinian situations have developed through two eras of struggle to restore the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. He said: By this we mean that the Palestinian people have their legitimate representatives who are accepted by the residents of the occupied Palestinian territories. Should there be any doubt in this respect, let the matter be settled by democratic means. Let free elections take place in the Palestinian territories so that the people's representatives may participate in the peace efforts. Ambassador Badawi added: Exactly 4 decades have elapsed since the United Nations first dealt with this pitiful situation from which the Middle East is still suffering. We have hopes and expectations that will urge us to exert more efforts next year to achieve our goals.

He continued: We are aware of the fact that this issue is not confined to the occupied Arab territories in the West Bank, Gaza, Golan, and Arab Jerusalem. It also concerns the land in the southern part of Lebanon which is dominated by Israel. The Lebanese people have suffered and still are suffering severely from the consequences of the fierce civil war which has been raging in their country for a long time. Foreign forces have intervened and still are intervening in this war, thus intensifying the conflict among the Lebanese parties and leading to the fragmentation and displacement of this Arab people which has a deeply rooted civilization, a strong will, and a creative mind.

Ambassador Badawi noted that it is high time for everyone to take their hands off Lebanon. He recalled that this is the very position that Egypt has been adopting ever since the situation in Lebanon deteriorated in 1975, and it continues to do so. The Egyptian UN delegate added: Any effective action toward solving the Lebanese crisis would, to quote the president of my country, "entail ridding Lebanon of foreign pressure and intervention and enabling its people to lay down an acceptable formula for organizing political life in this friendly coutnry."

Ambassador Badawi enumerated the following five points as a basis for inter-Arab relations in the region:

1. Agreement on a common viewpoint among the Arab states on the supreme nationalist objectives, particularly the question of how the Arab homeland's national security can be safeguarded and the dangers facing it be confronted.

2. The preservation of the independence of the Arab will and the freedom of Arab decision-making, the promotion of solidarity among Arab states, and the peaceful settlement of their disputes.

3. A commitment, on the part of each Arab country, to respect the fundamental charters governing the united Arab movement, foremost among which are the Arab League charter and the Joint Arab Defense Pact.

4. A commitment by the Arab countries to the principle of mutual respect and non-intervention in the affairs of other countries.

5. The formulation of guidelines on which to base the Arab countries' relations with non-Arab countries in the region. Egypt believes that this formulation must be free of racism, ethnic discrimination, and sectarianism, and should reject all calls for regional expansionism, hegemony, and control, and all theories of superiority.

Ambassador Badawi went on to say: My country has always urged the promotion of cooperation and understanding among the nonaligned Mediterranean countries, many of which are part of the Middle East region. Egyptian efforts have led to good results, and we hope more will be achieved in the near future.

Badawi added that Egypt is closely watching the positive developments now taking place throughout Europe, and the effects of these on the Mediterranean region. Egypt hopes that these developments will not only accelerate cooperation between the nonaligned Mediterranean countries and the European countries in economic, social, and cultural fields, but also lead to an intensified European drive to establish an area free of nuclear weapons in the Middle East. He added that Egypt believes that the elimination of all types of intermediate- or short-range missiles from Europe or the European countries bordering the Mediterranean is inadequate. What is also clearly required is the confrontation of any attempt by any of the Middle Eastern parties to proceed with the introduction of nuclear weapons, in any way whatsoever, to the arsenals of this or that party.

Concluding his speech, Ambassador Badawi stressed Egypt's confidence that a final, comprehensive, and just settlement of Middle East problems would also make provision for a ban on the introduction, manufacture, and storage of nuclear weapons and on the means of their delivery.

Jordanian Prime Minister Arrives 3 Dec

NC030908 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0902 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i arrived in Cairo this morning on a 5-day visit to Egypt.

He was met at the airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

Received by Mubarak

JN031615 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo—His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i at noon today. The meeting was attended by Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations, as well as topics to be dealt with by the Jordanian-Egyptian joint higher committee during its meeting which will last for 2 days. They also made a comprehensive review of the situation and developments in the Arab world. His Excellency President Mubarak hosted a luncheon banquet in honor of Al-Rifa'i and his accompanying delegation. It was attended by Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and the members of the Egyptian side to the joint higher committee.

Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i arrived in Cario at noon today leading an official delegation to attend the meetings of the seventh session of the Jordanian-Egyptian joint higher committee which will begin this evening. The prime minister was accorded an official welcome. Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi led those who welcomed him. The Jordanian and Egyptian anthems were played and the guards of honor greeted the prime minister.

In a statement given on arrival at Cairo International Airport, Prime Minister al-Rifa'i said that his visit to Cairo falls within the framework of the periodical meetings of the Jordanian-Egyptian joint higher committee. This committee, praise be to God, and thanks to the sincere and good effort and cooperation and sincere, certain desire, managed to boost bilateral, genuine cooperation to a level in which we take pride. He added that our achievements will be the best incentive for us to take more strides on the path of bilateral integration. The prime minister affirmed that the relations between the two sisterly countries have taken long, satisfactory strides. He added that the joint technical committees have performed their tasks in the best possible manner. He indicated that it has been agreed to establish a joint holding company between the two countries. From this company, a number of investment companies and projects will emerge, aiming to serve the interests of the two fraternal countries and peoples. He said he will convey His Majesty King Husayn's greetings to his brother His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He will also convey that his majesty is constantly looking forward to meeting President Mubarak soon, God willing.

Al-Rifa'i explained that the talks of the Jordanian-Egyptian joint higher committee will deal with all that has been achieved in the vairous fields of trade, industry, investment, higher education, labor, transport, tourism, media, and communications.

In a statement to journalists, Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi expressed happiness for the visit of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and his accompanying delegation. He said that in its current session, the committee will assess achievements in order to specify the future steps between the two countries. He said that during the committee's meetings a number of preconceptions about the activity of the joint holding company through some existing industrial companies will be discussed. [passage omitted]

Joint Committee Session Begins

NC031928 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The meetings of the seventh session of the higher Jordanian-Egyptian joint committee began on the cabinet premises this evening under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i.

Prior to the session, Dr Sidqi and Zayd al-Rifa'i held a meeting which lasted for some time. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the committee discussed issues pertaining to the increase in trade exchange, as well as coordination in the fields of industry, agriculture, planning, transportation, petroleum, mining, and energy.

Committee Meetings End

NC041358 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] The meetings of the higher Jordanian-Egyptian joint committee were concluded in Cairo today. At the end of the meetings, the prime ministers of the two countries signed agreements on increasing trade exchanges and bolstering cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi gave a closing speech in which he commended the spirit of brotherhood between His Majesty King Husayn and President Husni Mubarak, and between the people in both countries. Dr Sidqi said that this seventh committee session contributed to developing relations between both countries.

Zayd al-Rifa'i then gave a speech in which he expressed feelings of brotherhood that link both Egypt and Jordan. He said the committee meetings were very successful.

'Abd al-Majid, USSR Envoy Discuss Ties

NC011350 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 1 Dec 87

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with the Soviet ambassador in Cairo.

Following the meeting, the ambassador said bilateral relations and issues related to the Soviet-U.S. summit were discussed. He added that the world is waiting for the conclusion of the treaty to remove short- and intermediate-range missiles during the forthcoming summit. He also said that the summit will discuss regional issues, particularly the situation in the Middle East and the

Gulf, in addition to disarmament issues. The ambassador underlined the Soviet Union's eagerness for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598 to end the Iraq-Iran war. He said that the Soviet Union supports the UN secretary general's mission to reduce tension in the Gulf, which starts tomorrow.

Foreign Ministry, PLO Officials Hold Meeting

NC021401 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—Dr Taha al-Farnawani, chief of the Palestine Department at the Foreign Ministry, met today with Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the official in charge of the PLO and the Fatah movement representative in Cairo.

Al-Qidrah said that they reviewed the latest Arab and Palestinian developments. They also discussed the arrangements for next week's visit to Cairo by a Palestinian delegation, led by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas.

Reportage on Czechoslovak Minister's Visit

Power Plant Contract Signed

NC011603 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 1 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, and Eduard Saul, CSSR minister of metallurgy and heavy engineering, were present today when a contract was signed to expand the old Talkha power plant. Under the terms of the contract, an additional steam-driven generating unit with a capacity of 205 megawatts will be provided as part of the first emergency plan for the electricity sector.

The contract was signed on behalf of Egypt by Dr 'Imad al-Sharqawi, chairman of the Egyptian Electricity Authority, and for the CSSR by Mikush, chairman of the Skoda Export Company [name and title as received]. According to the contract, the CSSR will make a $75 million loan available.

Engineer Abazah said later that the contract provides for the design and construction of the additional unit, which is expected to become operational during the first half of 1991. He added that a study to expand the Al-'Arish electricity plant with the help of a Czechoslovak loan is now underway and negotiations are currently going on between the Egyptian and CSSR Governments. The Al-Siyuf plant in Alexandria is also being developed.

The two ministers also attended the signing of a contract to replace and renew the first and second units at the Kafr al-Dawwar steam-driven electricity plant. The capacity of this plant is 220 megawatts and the CSSR is providing the project with a $22 million loan. [passage omitted]

Increase in Trade Discussed

NC021530 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, met today with Eduard Saul, CSSR minister of metallurgy and heavy engineering. They discussed the feasibility of developing Egyptian industries with Czechoslovak technology and opening up new markets in Egypt and the CSSR for the two countries' products. They also examined the possibility of increasing Egyptian exports to the CSSR, particularly industrial products such as aluminum, textiles, woven fabrics, and some agricultural equipment.

The CSSR minister arrived in Cairo last Friday on a 1-week visit.

Industrial, Trade Cooperation

NC021547 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 2 Dec (MENA)—Dr Jalal Abu al-Dhahab, minister of supply and internal trade, conferred here today with Eduard Saul, CSSR minister of metallurgy and heavy engineering, and his accompanying delegation, who are currently visiting Cairo.

The two parties reviewed ways of strengthening bilateral cooperation in the development of the flour-grinding industry, the manufacture of metallic crop silos, and the non-traditional fodder industry. They also discussed a trade agreement between the two countries according to which the Czechoslovak Kospol [name as received] corporation will provide 50,000 tons of sugar for Egypt. The sugar will be imported in quantities and at prices to be agreed on by the two countries.

The CSSR minister praised the two countries' existing cooperation in the development of the silo and fodder industries. He also underlined his country's desire to supply Egypt with the appropriate Czechoslovak technology.

Ends Visit, Departs

NC030824 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Eduard Saul, CSSR minister of metallurgy and heavy engineering, left Cairo for home this morning following a 1-week visit during which he and Egyptian officials discussed various aspects of cooperation between the two countries.

During his stay in Egypt, the CSSR minister agreed to the request made by Eng Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, minister of housing and new communities, that Czechoslovakia renovate and modernize 26 drinking water stations in the various governorates of Egypt.

The CSSR minister also discussed with Minister of Industry Eng Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab the possibility of utilizing Czechoslovak expertise to modernize a number of thermal and mining plants and to manufacture the equipment for these plants locally.

The CSSR minister and Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, signed a contract to expand the Talkha power station and to provide it with a new 200-megawatt power generating unit, which will become operational during the first half of 1991.

Albanian Economy Minister Arrives for Visit

NC030919 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Albanian Minister of Economy Aksam Tatej [title as received] and his delegation arrived in Cairo this morning for a 4-day visit. During his visit, the Albanian minister will have talks with Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, on strengthening economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

During its stay in Egypt, the Albanian delegation will visit the Egyptian products for exports exhibition to discuss the possibility of concluding bilateral trade deals for next year.

During the talks, which will be begin today, the Albanian delegation and the Egyptian officials will discuss the possibility of signing a barter trade agreement betwen the two countries.

Somali Envoy Arrives With Message to Mubarak

NC020654 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] Abdirashid Sheikh Ahmed, Somali information minister, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo early this morning on a 6-day official visit to Egypt. He will meet with Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and a number of senior officials.

Upon arrival, the Somali minister stated that he is carrying a handwritten message to President Husni Mubarak from Somali President Siad Barre. He expressed pleasure at visiting Cairo, saying it is an opportunity to meet with brothers in Egypt to discuss several Arab issues, as well as bilateral relations and cooperation in the media fields.

The Somali minister commended the results of the Amman summit, particularly the resumption of relations with Egypt. He said Somalia views Egypt as the eldest sister who is concerned with the protection of Arab and African interests.

Qatari Official Concludes Visit, Departs

NC011400 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 1 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Dec (MENA)—Qatari Minister of Education Shaykh Muhammad ibn Hamad al Thani left Cairo this afternoon at the end of a 1-week visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak and delivered a message from Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al Thani. [passage omitted]

Libya

YAR Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive

LD031442 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] The prime minister and members of the government in the fraternal YAR arrived in Tripoli at noon today to attend the second meeting between the General Popular Committee in the Great Jamahiriyah and the YAR Council of Ministers. The meeting is based on the distinguished fraternal relations between the Arab people in the Great al-Jamahiriyah and the YAR within the framework of the unionist steps between the two fraternal countries.

The fraternal YAR delegation includes Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Permanent Committee; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Permanent Committee; Eng 'Abdallah al-Kurshumi, minister of public works; Brother Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, minister of economy, supply and trade; Brother 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat, minister of interior; Al-Qadi 'Ali ibn al-Samman, minister of awqaf and guidance; Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and member of the Permanent Committee; Lieutenant Colonel Muhsin Muhammad al-'Ulufi, minister of social affairs and labor; Brother Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, minister of municipalities and housing and member of the Permanent Committee; Dr Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab, minister of health and member of the Permanent Committee; Brother Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Jayfi, minister of education and member of the Permanent Committee; Brother Ahmad Muhammad al-Jubi, minister of justice; Brother Ahmad 'Alawi al-Salami, minister of finance; Brother Ahmad Salih al-Ru'ayni, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Eng Ahmad Muhammad al-Ansi, minister of communications and transport and member of the Permanent Committee; Brother Isma'il Ahmad al-Wazir, minister of civil service and administrative reform and member of the Permanent Committee; and Dr Husayn 'Abdallah al-'Amri, minister of agriculture and fisheries and member of the Permanent Committee.

The fraternal delegation was welcomed by the brother secretary and members of the General Popular Committee, a number of Armed Forces officers, and members of the diplomatic corps in the Great al-Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Meeting

LD040811 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2102 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi before a joint meeting of the YAR Council of Ministers and the General People's Committee on 3 December in Tripoli—recorded]

[Text] [Passage indistinct] Since the days of the states of Ma'iniyyin and Himyarryin, and Hadhramawt and Shiba, migrations used to come in succession from the Yemen to North Africa. They spread Arabism in these lands, and Rome used to compete with them for control of these lands. Rome wanted to annex North Africa to its possessions and turn North Africa into a fourth shore of the Roman Empire. They say that North Africa is the fourth shore of present-day Italy, which used to be the capital of the Roman state, but in fact, North Africa is a geographical extension of the fertile crescent and the Arabian Peninsula. They wanted to cross the sea and, of course, they crossed. They wanted to take the lands of North Africa, but the intensive and successive Yemeni migrations over many years were the ones that enabled the Arab race to settle and populate North Africa.

The Arabs who came after Islam, especially the famous migrations of Bani Hilal and Bani Salim, came in the footsteps of the ancient Arab Yemeni migrations. They used to follow the same route. When the Arabs came after Islam, they found North Africa populated by ancient Arabs, who were called barbarians by the Romans because they used to raid Roman colonies and burn Roman farms in order to liberate North Africa from unjust Roman control. They considered this action and the people barbaric; but the Barbars are in fact a part of the ancient Arab migrations, from the Yemen in particular, which had reached the Canary Islands, the population of which is also Himyarriyyin even now. They admit that they are of Himyari origin. The post-Islam Arabs found their brethren who came to North Africa thousands of years before them speaking the ancient Arabic language, the language of the Arab tribes; from Himyar, Shiba and Kahtan, Hadhramawt [word indistinct]. The Arabic language developed after Islam, especially the language of Quraysh, which became dominant and in which the Koran is written.

The Romans exploited this time factor between the brothers and attempted to split and enslave the pre-Islam Arabs, whom they called barbarians [word indistinct] but in the end, Arabism and Islam triumphed, and the barbarian Arabs and the Muslim Arabs united against the Romans. History records the details of these facts and this epic in the history of the Arab nation in North Africa before and after Islam. Until now, all the tribes they call barbarian, the families and the names, including names of towns, are Yemeni names. God willing, we will have another meeting, a nonofficial one, to discuss these historical matters.

I go back and say that the Libyans and the Yemenis, in particular, excluding the remaining Arabs, are closer to each other. Rather, they are from the same tribes and the same families. Your presence today fills our hearts with pleasure and pride, that we have brothers with us. Also the presence of the YAR Government as a whole, led by Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz, the prime minister, is a confirmation of the unity of the Arab nation. Such a step is an unfamiliar one with regard to the foreign states, which are foreign in relation to each other. We do not see a government moving from its country to another to hold a meeting. For us, however, it is a natural matter for the Libyan people's committees to go Sana, as they did 2 years ago, or for the whole YAR Council of Ministers to come from Sana to hold a united session with its brothers in the Jamahiriyah. This, in itself, is a confirmation of our unity, that we are one people and one homeland. In fact, we consider this action to be a historic one that should not be renunciated and that should be followed up. I regret that a long time has passed between the two meetings, the meeting between the Libyan General People's Committee with the Council of Ministers in Sana, and this meeting, but I hope that we will compensate for this lapsed period and will intensify the unified action between the executive structures of the two countries.

In fact, we made such steps with some of the Arab countries that are qualified and ready to accept unionist action at this level. The General People's Committee went to Algeria and held a unified session with the Algerian Council of Ministers. It is assumed that the Algerian Council of Ministers will hold a unified session with the General People's Committee in Tripoli. The whole Tunisian Government came and held a unified session with the General People's Committee in the Jamahiriyah some time ago; there is also an agreement with the Syrian Arab Republic on achieving this. Such a meeting is possible in relation to Syria, Sana, Tripoli, Algeria, and possibly Tunisia, and other countries with which there was agreement, including Morocco.

This action can be developed and you should know of these agreements. We—the four, the five, or the three states—develop this and will hold at some point in time a meeting of the joint executive bodies of these four, or three, or five Arab countries. These executive structures will become a supreme unified executive committee for those countries. I do not believe that this is a difficult way of achieving Arab unity; it is an easy and peaceful doorway that melts regional divisions in a calm and peaceful way.

Although I have no political or administrative position, I decided to open your session because I consider it a revolutionary act, a unionist act. My task is a revolutionary and unionist one, not political or administrative, as I am not the president of a republic or a head of state. However, I consider this action to be a revolutionary, unionist, and historic one at the same time. I see it at the core of my unionist and revolutionary tasks in relation to the Arab arena. During this meeting, I want Yemenis and Libyans to come out with an example that may be followed by other Arab countries, which might follow us and take the same path as we, or those countries in any part of the Arab homeland, which might agree to carry out such experiments between themselves, between two or even more countries, not to carry them out with us, but between themselves. In general, however, such a work of yours should be an example so no one can say it is temporary; that is, you have tried such a unionist step, what are the results between Sana and Tripoli, for instance? We should provide something tangible, so that others may say: Let us do what Yemen and Libyan have achieved.

While you are meeting here, I would like for you to put the interests of Libyans and Yemenis before you and for you to discuss and decide, in an unionist way, whatever is of interest to the Arab people in both Libya and Yemen. Every one of you, whether he be a member of the Yemeni Council of Ministers or a member of the Libyan General People's Congress, should be concerned about the interests of the Libyan Arab citizen and the Arab Yemeni citizen. I do not want any side to be talking about either Yemen or Libya exclusively. No, during this meeting you are a united supreme executive committee that looks into the affairs of citizens in both Libya and Yemen and implements whatever serves the interests of citizens in both Libya and Yemen. To do so, we have to look into the two sides' available means, how to exploit them and use them in a standardized manner for the benefit of the Arab citizen in both countries. What does the Arab citizen in Yemen need and what does the Arab citizen in Libya need? What does the Arab citizen in Libya have and what does the Arab citizen in Yemen have? How can we overcome shortcomings and how can we best use any potentiality which the other side has?

Thus, I do not want the meeting to begin like any meeting between delegates of some countries which only want to achieve some kind of cooperation or agreement. I permit myself to assert this because I have been encouraged by my brother President 'Ali Abdallah Salih's readiness, as well as that of the rest of my brothers, that is Chadli Bendjedid, Hafiz al-'Asad, etc., to put forward such an idea. Therefore, when I suggested such a method to be the manner for a unionist action, I had in mind the essence of such an action. I want any meeting between any two or more executive powers to be transformed, as soon as their meeting takes place, into a one supreme executive committee of two or more countries.

The supreme executive committee will discuss the affairs of the countries, whether their number is two, or three, or more. It will take the appropriate decisions, which serve the interests of all without any one of us trying to represent one country or one side. This aim, I mean the essence of the idea, must not be forgotten.

I suggest such a method and I was encouraged to do so by the readiness of the brother presidents in those sisterly countries. I also have this goal in mind. You will meet Yemenis and Libyans; when you do so, you transform yourselves into a united executive council, authority, or committee, and consider the two countries as one; that is, you talk about Banghazi Municipality as if you were talking about Ta'iz Province, and so forth. That way no one can object to whatever you decide.

You are the authority entrusted with the implementation. Anything you agree on must be implemented and it is up to you to implement it. Whatever you agree upon, you must embark on its implementation in both countries. If this operation continues, it will in the end make the two countries into one without any problems regarding the union. No longer will it be a question of union by means of a revolution, the use of force, or a conspiracy. We will discover that we have unified the two countries with this simple method. What makes it simple is the fact that we are one people, one country, and one homeland, facing one common enemy and the target of one enemy.

This is the philosophy of our revolutions. The fruit of these revolutions is the action you are carrying out. We would like to feel that we are carrying out a revolutionary action, perhaps unprecedented. Never before has any Arab government gone to another Arab country to hold a joint session with this other government as one government for two or more countries; this has never happened. Now we have entered this phase, compelled by the constraints of life. Truly, it is not something done on the spur of the moment. It is the constraints of life, the challenges, the Arabs' demands, and the need to unify all their potential in order to build progress and to confront the enemy which made us search for a way to unify our efforts and potentials. In this respect, let us refer to a chapter in the National Charter of the Yemen Arab Republic. Also, we would like this meeting to take place under the auspices of this charter and in implementation of it. [video shows Al-Qadhahafi going through some papers to find the right chapter] I was really pleased with the words I found here, in the National Charter of the Yemen Arab Republic, which say that our belief, meaning our Yemeni brothers, in Arab unity is confirmed through our interaction with all the just and legitimate causes of our Arab nation and through our contribution to this nation in all its battles against its enemies. In the forefront of these causes there is the just Arab cause of the Palestinian Arab people for the liberation of their land and their self-determination, and for the liberation of the other Arab territories occupied by the Israeli Zionist entity.

Moreover, the belief in Arab unity of our brothers in Yemen is also confirmed through the efforts made to find a joint formula in order to achieve economic integration, which constitutes a safe road into complete political unity. Indeed, the words contained in the YAR National Charter are absolutely right for finding a joint formula. It is your duty to find the joint formula at this joint meeting, in order to achieve economic integration.

It is true, this is the right start; I refer to the economic integration. Why? Because it constitutes the safe road to complete political unity. This is the slogan and the dictum we have to put in front of us and which should be the basis of our meeting: finding the joint formula in order to achieve economic integration, which will lead to political unity. I have, myself, underlined this chapter in red because this meeting is taking place for its implementation and to find the joint formula for economic integration in order to achieve political unity.

It is of no use to insist on the need for Arab unity in this era, as our brothers are all educated militants and revolutionaries who have gone through much for the sake of this objective. They also have suffered much through the reactionary and colonialist challenges. The history of Yemen is full of acts of heroism, sacrifices, and revolutions, from the 1934 war until the 1948 revolution, the 1955 uprising, and the 26 September 1962 revolution, which led to 14 October 1963 in Aden, in South Yemen. You are not in need. The international and local challenges are serious and are growing greater at this stage. We must rise to the level of these challenges, not by talk and hollow meetings, but through meetings full of serious action. The challenges require a session of this kind, a quiet one, and the unification of the economic, political, and military capabilities of the Arabs in order to confont these challenges.

These things you know; you know that we live in an age, the age of big blocs, the age of giants and imperialist forces. The world is, in fact, turning into a jungle, and unless you are a wolf, the wolves will eat you; unless you are big power now, you will be swallowed by the other big powers. The world now is divided into spheres of influence, into giant polarizations, and unless you are heavy and a pole of attraction, you will be drawn by the other polarizations. Now we can just try to maintain and consolidate our feet on the Arab soil [words indistinct]. There is polarization from the Soviet Union; there is polarization from the United States; there is polarization from Europe, from China, from India, from all these big blocs.

The EEC is a new polarization that transforms the world map into a new shape. Europe, with its big states, some of which are nuclear, saw that it was unable to live without European unity. The income of one European country is more than that of all the Arabs. Yet they saw that Italy, France, Germany, Britain, and the remaining Western countries must unite in the EEC, which is an economic start for a political objective, to become a European political unity that can act as a balance, despite the fact that states like France and Britain are nuclear states, big powers; they saw that the establishment of an Asian bloc to protect the yellow race was not sufficient in this dangerous age. [sentence as heard]

India feared that the danger would come to it from Sri Lanka; imagine this, the old island of Ceylon. India has almost one-quarter of the world's population, yet it saw the need to create a big alignment and fight in Bangladesh. You hear of Bangladesh; India has a hand in it. It wants Bangladesh to be in its orbit. It is situated between India and Pakistan; you know the situation. [sentence as heard] Other statelets such as the Kingdom of Bhutan, Nepal, and Tibet, each one (?wants it in its) orbit, despite the fact that India itself is a large country. How great is its population? It is now nearing 600 million. Perhaps it has passed into the billions. Yet it needs to protect itself by creating a bloc in that region.

Who is left, in fact? The states of Latin America, the small countries being fought over in order to annex them to this or that bloc. They are working on Latin America—Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, which is emerging as a big power in the future—and this means there is a chance for the emergence of a new bloc in the world in Asia and Latin America, in addition to the (?previous) polarizations or blocs.

This is a dangerous situation; the whole world has been transformed into big blocs. What is left out? Only the African countries. As you are seeing, there is a struggle between international polarizations to control them. Also, there are the Arab countries. You are aware of this, as you live in the middle of a battle: the existence of two Yemens, north and south, which everybody is trying to polarize into a bloc. In fact, every one of you knows about this; I only wanted to remind you of it. Reminding may be of value to believers. [Koranic verse]

This is what has prompted us to meet and unite our potentialities because there is a real danger. We are not the only ones who are trying to unite themselves. The whole world around us is uniting itself in blocs. Many groups of peoples, nations, and human beings have become aware of similarities among themselves and that there is therefore a possibility of uniting against a common danger. So, they have become united. No country can, on its own, go into space, or develop nuclear power, solar power, and the laser, as well as desalinate sea water [words indistinct]. The use of space has become a necessity, like the use of camels on earth earlier [words indistinct] and ships in the seas. This is a new era.

We are still backward, notwithstanding the fact that we look upon ourselves as heroes in the world. When others have reached the moon, Mars, and Saturn, we watch them do so, and in an exclamation of suprise say: Praise be to God! Praise be to God! It should not be so; this is a great nation [words indistinct] has a vast area from the ocean to the Gulf, and it is the most dangerous region in the world. This region has a geostrategy between world continents [words indistinct] the Suez Canal, Bab al-Mandeb, Hormuz, and the Mediterranean. All these are keys onto which imperialist powers, as well as the big powers of polarization, which we have already mentioned, are trying to put their hands to prevent Arabs from becoming a power to control such keys.

When 'Abd al-Nasir nationalized the Suez Canal, three major powers fought him. They fought him because he put his hands on one of the main strategic and most important keys in the world needed by imperialist powers. Look at this region. [video shows Al-Qadhahafi standing up and pointing to a map of the Arab world] This is a very dangerous region, particularly these areas, which are along the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Gulf. These keys are the routes between north and south, between East and West; no one can sail except through these straits.

So how can imperialist powers, which are trying to control the world and (?oppress) freedom, allow Arabs to be a power and take control of such? We said that they attacked 'Abd al-Nasir with a great force—the major powers were not ashamed to do so because he wanted to control one of these keys, the Suez Canal, which he nationalized. If you do anything that extends Arab sovereignty to Bab al-Mandeb, a war will take place. Not because it is not our right to do so; on the contrary, it is, but because they want such a key, which is ours, to be in their hands and not in the hands of Arabs. Look at Hormuz. The United States, as well as all of NATO, are now in Hormuz because Hormuz is a key wanted by (?someone to be part of his keys). This key concerns only this region; it concerns Arabs and Iranians. However, they say that although the United States is on the Atlantic Ocean, such a key is a very important one;even if it is yours, it is still a very dangerous one.

This is exactly what they have done in Panama. The Panama Canal is owned by Panama, but the United States has a number of bases there because Panama is one of the most dangerous keys. If we allow them, they will never permit us to become a power in control of all these keys. They wanted this vast homeland of ours, which became vast thanks to your migrations, upon which I already have elaborated, to be forever a consuming market for their products. To remain so, there must not be any industry [words indistinct] any raw material in it must remain so and be sold to them so as to manufacture them and resell them to us as manufactured products. This homeland must never be allowed to be self-sufficient, so that it may remain a consuming market for their products. It must not get military power and take control of the strategic keys needed by the imperialist powers. Therefore, we do not (?appreciate) our homeland, which is for good or ill, a strategic region. It is important, regardless of why, made so by God or by our own migration. The heart of the matter is, however, that this region, which is inhabited by the Arabs, is a very sensitive and dangerous area; it is the transportation link between the continent, it has strategic keys, it has raw materials, and it is in the northern temperate zone.

Consequently, they are determined to combat the Arabs so that they do not acquire industry and do not reach unity. They are combatting the very Arab unity because it is Arab unity that leads to power. They want to have power over this region. This meeting defies the will of this imperialist power, which does not want to see the Arabs united. This meeting thus acquires the characteristics of defiance, revolution, and unity, more than administrative characteristics.

This homeland is, in fact, threatened by the European pressure from the north. Between ourselves we can say that there is a European incitement for a black advance from the south on the Arab hoemland. Even the Iran-Iraq war is used as one factor, among others, which constitutes a foreign pressure on the Arabs. Add to that the Zionist expansionism from inside, this explosion from the inside, which is continuously consolidated and constantly pressed down until it explodes gradually to shake the Arabs from the inside and destroy any Arab-built force. They vetoed the Arab future. Iraq built a nuclear reactor; they destroyed it. Had we had a nuclear reactor in Libya, they would have destroyed it. Had you had a nuclear reactor, they would destroy it. Anything that constitutes the nucleus of a modern Arab force is vetoed. Arabs will not be able to build atomic power, will not unite, will not constitute a military force, and will not acquire knowledge.

The United States prevented the Libyan students from acquiring space science and atomic science. It expelled the Libyan students from U.S. universities. It said: It is forbidden for the Libyan students to acquire space or atomic knowledge. This means that the confrontation between them and us is obvious. There is no longer any hidden aspect to it.

Unfortunately, the water sources in this homeland come from abroad. The Nile River springs from outside the Arab world. Its source is in the African countries. It is possible to deprive the Arabs of it. Currently, there is a revolution in the south of Sudan in order to appropriate the fertile part of Sudan and cut off the water from Sudan and Egypt. Should this operation in the south of Sudan succeed, it will be repeated continuously in order to cut the fertile part of the Arab homeland.

There is a continuous war. The military operations currently carried out in Palestine and the surrounding are are not a reply to the Fida'i operations, as is announced. The aim is the control of the local water sources: the Jordan River, the Yarmuk River, the Litani River, the ('Ass) River. Now they have reached the Litani River. They obstructed it so that the Arabs do not exploit it, and it has come under Israeli control. They have made the Litani River a buffer security zone. This is the first stage, which is controlling local waters. This is the only (?skill) that originates from the Arab world. It is the most fertile region.

The Jews (?intend) to occupy it and settle more Jewish emigrants. The next stage will normally be the Nile and Euphrates. You can see that the Euphrates and Tigris spring from Turkey, outside the Arab world. There are attempts by Turkey to cut off the water from Syria and

Iraq. Turkey is building a dam over the river to cut it off from the Arabs. Should they cut off the Nile, Sudan and Egypt will become deserts. There is no rain whatsoever over Sudan and Egypt. There are no fertile regions apart from the fertile crescent, which is threatened by the Jewish advance. The Nile, and mainly the south of Sudan, are threatened by advance. The Yemeni mountains—Al-Jabalayn al-Akharayn—the Atlas mountains, these are the only ones that have a little rain, which is not really sufficient.

The Arabs are really in danger in many respects, up to the point that once in a lecture I made at universities I said that if we cannot make the atomic bomb, we must make a human bomb by increasing the Arab population to a billion in order to survive. For survival, we have to possess an important arm that sets a balance. If not material, then let it be human, a human bomb. We will increase the Arab population until it reaches a billion. Indeed, it is one of the solutions, and it is naturally a negative solution, but in the end it will enable us to survive. We must look for a miracle to solve the problem in the Arab homeland because it lacks water and it has raw materials we are unable to exploit. It is also illiterate, and culturally and technically backward, while the other powers are growing and industrializing rapidly, overwhelming us and continuing to pressure us. It is imperative to desalinate the sea water. I mean we must find a miracle to desalinate the sea water to use it in agriculture. Let us use solar and atomic energy. Eritrea, here, will become Arab, and with Djibouti, Somalia, and Sudan, here, it will remain surrounded by an Arab sea. [video shows Al-Qadhdhafi pointing to the map] Therefore, it wants to create (?outlets) for itself by breaking this link and crushing Eritrea. There also are attempts to divide Somalia into two states, a northern state and a southern state, and to separate southern Sudan. This is because the region is fertile; that is why there is a conflict going on there. This is the only fertile region in the Arab homeland and its water sources are Arab and local. Therefore, it is facing an intense conflict.

With regard to the other conflicts over the Gulf of Sidra, the Suez Canal, Bab Al-Mandab, and Tarik, the imperialist powers can control them militarily. This is the Gulf of Sidra and this is the line of death we are talking about. From this line down, this is considered Libyan territory and we will not allow the U.S. to reach this point because it would mean allowing it inside Libyan territory. [video shows Al-Qadhdhafi pointing to map]

This is Banghazi; it would go past it. This is Misratah; it would also go past it. They said: No, we are going to conduct our maneuvres in this area. They talked about freedom of navigation in the seas. What freedom of navigation? Do you have a ship sailing in this way in the desert? If you want to sail through, you should do it through the sea; nobody is stopping you.

It all has to do with controlling strategic zones because the Gulf of Sidra is the right place for military naval maneuvers. It also will be a direct threat to Libya and its oil resources, its petrochemical industries, and everything there is around the Gulf. This also will divide Libya into two parts. Consequently, it will amount to a kind of military domination over one part of the Arab homeland; namely, the Gulf of Sidra.

This is Aozou, which they want to take in the same way [words indistinct], saying it belongs to Chad, taking 16 here and 16 there. They are constantly on the offensive. One day it is Aozou, another day it is the Gulf of Sidra. It reminds us of the old pretexts. The French occupied Algeria because, they said, the bey of Algiers hit the French ambassador with a fan. What fan? Even if he had not hit someone with a fan, they still could have occupied Algeria.

Hence, this homeland really is in danger, and we must think of its fate. You are now in charge, in the executive power, as ministers, leaders, teachers, intellectuals, educated people, and revolutionaries. You all are responsible for determining the fate of the Arab homeland and building the road to the future for the coming generations, your children and their children.

It is no longer a matter of who is to be the ruler. Who cares? Anyone can rule. Ali Baba can rule for all I know, as long as he can turn us into a great power. Let the Saudis rule, as long as they give us the oil and distribute to the entire Arab homeland. They can neither come to power nor manage to rule. They are able to rule only under cover of a conflict, the conflict of how to take oil from Yemen to add it to Saudi Arabia as it needed it. Yesterday, I was reading a report that said that Saudi Arabia was picking a quarrel in the region and wanted to take the oil there, as if Saudi Arabia needed it. Since Yemen is a human reserve...[Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] The Yemenis are the ones who built the Arab civilization. Let us remember that Al Sa'ud, I think, or 'Abd al-'Aziz, said that evil and good would both come to you from Yemen, advising them not to let Yemen unite and become strong. That is it. This advice has been followed, as Yemen is not united, nor has it gained any strength. This is what 'Abd al-'Aziz said. [Al-Qadhdhafi laughs] Indeed, because the future is daunting, they know that Yemen is the source and the basis. What do we have here? We have the Americans and nobody else, the Americans and nothing else. There are U.S. bases, U.S. rulers, and other symbols, specimens, and rotten facades. [video shows Al-Qadhdhafi pointing to map]

As for Yemen, it is the source. All civilizations came from Yemen; all the migrations came from Yemen, the [word indistinct] of mankind is in Yemen. The human bomb is in the Yemen in relation to the peninsula. At any rate, in fact, I used to have an excellent relationship with the brothers who were in Yemen since the days of the Iryani, Al-'Ayni, and Al-Hamdi. Now, thanks be to God [words indistinct] in the end with the presence of Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. I consider him a revolutionary youth, capable of and ready to confront the challenges. Even if he was obscure in the past, I discovered in him in fact a man who is not known generally among the Arabs and the world; I discovered that he has a revolutionary spirit. He was described by 'Abdallah al-Sallal as the youth who renewed the youth and the soul of the 26 September Revolution. I learned this expression from 'Abdallah that day.

Hence, I hope that our meetings came about as a result of conviction, as a result of the need for us to unite. We do not conceal it from each other: You need the Libyans and the Libyans need you. The necessity of the life of the Arabs made us meet. It is not important where we meet, even on the floor without chairs. What is important is that we make something for the future of this nation. We must not look at each other as two countries because you are here as a one supreme executive committee considering the conditions of people in this and that spot. As it is a revolutionary action, I will be interested in your resolutions and what comes of them, their follow-up, and your meeting also because it is a revolutionary, unionist, historic action; because this is a front that we have opened against the challeneges.

How are we to defeat the challenges we have discussed? Only through the opening of fronts, a trench to fight from. Had it been an administrative or ordinary political action, I might not have shown interest in it because it is not among my responsibilities. However, because I consider it a historic, a revolutionary, and unionist action, I will be responsible for the follow-up of the results of your meetings and will follow the continuation of these meetings and this hope.

Once more, I express my great pleasure at the presence of our brothers among us, especially at a time when your Libyan Arab people are facing challenges from several fronts. Your presence here proves that we are together in the same trench and that the Libyan people are not isolated and are not confronting the enemy of the Arab nation on their own. Rather, they have brothers who have enough courage and conviction to come under these circumstances and meet here, and say: We are here. Indeed, we are very proud of this and will not forget it. Every Libyan will record it in his special notebook and in our common history. Your coming under such circumstances and your declaration: We are here in Tripoli. We appreciate very much and value highly, and we will not forget it at all. This indicates the courage of Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, as I have said, and the courage of the Yemeni brothers.

Consider yourselves responsible for the Libyan people and debate and know all that concerns them, and your brothers consider themselves responsible for the Yemeni people and will talk about it and what concerns them. Anything that the Arab citizen (?presents) in this or that spot is the same. We do not say: No, I am a Libyan. How can...[sentence left incomplete] No, this is an Arab citizen and that is an Arab citizen. How can we distinguish between them? If it is a matter of origin, they all came from this region [video shows Al-Qadhdhafi pointing to the map]. Al-Haj Musa is Musa al-Haj, the Libyan is Yemeni and the Yemeni is Libyan.

Well, I give you an opportunity to continue your meeting and wish you success not only in implorations. I am with you with my sword and heart. Not only our hearts are with you, our swords are with you.

Thank you. [applause]

AFP Propagates 'Lies' on Chad Attack Claims

LD031648 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Dec (JANA)—AFP has continued to propagate Ndjamena's lies about alleged Libyan attacks on Chadian territory in eastern Chad and about an imaginary battle between the so-called Islamic Brigade and the Ndjamena forces. Commenting on these fabrications, the JANA African affairs editor had this to say:

1) By propagating these reports, AFP is only carrying out its natural duty as an agency affiliated to the French intelligence service, which in turn seeks to stir up the situation in Africa and keep it constantly in a volatile state in order to serve the U.S. imperialist policy pursued by France in Africa.

2) By pressuring its trumpets in Ndjamena to disseminate such fabricated reports and to have them propagated by AFP, the French Government is trying in vain to cover up the tense situation in which its agent, Habre, finds himself due to the Chadian tribes' revolt against him. This revolt poses a serious threat to Habre, particularly since confrontation between him and the Chadian tribes has reached the stage of armed conflict. The military and political circles in Paris tried to avoid this conflict by diverting the Chadian people's attention by making them think they were facing an external military threat.

3) The propagation of such reports affirms that preparations were underway for a new aggression on the Jamahiriyah's territory and that this news was the prelude for that aggression, which is being planned by Washington in collaboration with its natural French ally.

4) France's attempts to inflame the situation in Chad constitute a stab in the back of Africa and a flouting of the feelings of the Africans who expressed, on more than one occasion through the OAU, their firm desire that the foreign imperialist forces remove their hands from Africa and leave the Africans to solve their own problems without foreign interference.

5) It has become evident that Paris does not at all wish to see security prevail in Chad because it is confident that stability and calm will mean the end of its agent, Habre, in Ndjamena. For this reason, it is working to disturb the climate of peace and the African efforts to find a solution

to Chad's domestic problem, particularly as the Great Jamahiriyah has submitted all the necessary documents to the OAU committee in order to secure peace in this African country.

6) As far as agent Habre is concerned, the propagation of such reports will help him to justify the acts of armed looting and robbery that his gangs commit against the Sudanese villages along the Chadian-Sudanese borders and to also justify his loss of all means of tackling the internal situation and the sharp conflicts that have been overwhelming him.

Finally, the Great Jamahiriyah, which has repeatedly affirmed that it is not in a state of war with Chad, wishes to reiterate that there were no battles involving Libyan forces in eastern Chad because there are no Libyan forces in Sudan. The Jamahiriyah is not at all concerned with what takes place in the eastern Chadian regions because that is an internal matter beteeen the Chadian tribes and the Ndjamena regime. Nobody should interfere in the issue, particularly those who come from outside Africa, thousands of kilometers away from Chad, and belong to a continent other than the African Continent.

Link With Kenyan Students' Union Leader Denied

LD041131 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Dec (JANA)—The JANA international affairs editor has refuted reports and claims that have been spread about an alleged link between the students' union at the University of Nairobi and the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in the Kenyan capital. The editor says: While deploring such reports fabricated and marketed by the Western news media, we affirm the following:

1. The Western news media, known for their hostility to any African-Arab rapprochement, have exploited what has been claimed about the leader of the Students' Union at Nairobi University and have tried to dramatize it and drive a wedge between the Africans and the Arab countries, especially because these news media have become accustomed to implicating the Great Jamahiriyah with the aim of tarnishing its reputation and its political stances in the world.

2. For this reason Western media saw in this material an opportunity to cover up the consequences of the destructive U.S. plan in Kenya revealed by the Kenyan authorities 2 weeks ago, when a cell of U.S. missionaries was uncovered which was working for the overthrow of the Kenyan regime.

3. According to some reports, the leader of the Students' Union at Nairobi University may have been a member of the Revolutionary Committees Movement, a world revolutionary movement that has spread to Africa, Latin America, Asia, and elsewhere in the world.

As we know, the Revolutionary Committees Movement is peaceful and has no link with subversion or terrorism. Nor does it aim to overthrow regimes to become an alternative government. No, it is an instrument of missionary activity for the new civilization; its members are the prophets of this civilization, and the missionaries of the era of the masses and the end of the exploitation of man by his fellow man.

The editor concludes: The Jamahiriyah is not responsible for objective conditions and circumstances which in one country or another may result in the creation of revolutionary foundations in the ranks of those who feel they have been the victims of political and social unjustice, whether students or workers, peasants or soldiers, and so forth. Those to blame are those who have created these conditions and circumstances.

Congress Secretary Talks With PRC Official

LD031142 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Dec (JANA)—Brother 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee, received this morning in Tripoli Wang Renzhong, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the PRC National People's Congress, and his delegation. The Chinese guests are currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

The meeting, attended by the PRC ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, was devoted to finding ways of strengthening and promoting bilateral relations in various domains.

JANA Criticizes VOA Commentary on Africa

LD041004 Tripoli JANA in English 1824 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 3, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—"The Voice of America" radio criticised the economic policies of many African states. It called on those states to abandon those policies which are linked to the public sector and pursue the free trade policy similar to the capitalist economic system established in America and some Western states.

In its commentary, which expresses the point of view of the U.S. Government, it described the African Continent as a company important to the U.S.

JANA's international affairs editor commented by saying: "The U.S. Administration in its radio's commentary, saves us the trouble to seek and search for detailed aims of U.S. policies towards the African Continent, for it describes the continent in a blunt manner as 'only a trading company important to America.' Thus is Africa with its nations, regimes, wealth, history and heritage according to the U.S. views which reveal the spirit of racism and arrogance and the superiority complex upon which the U.S. Administration bases its policies towards the Africans."

The editor added: "Such a view is a direct insult to the African nations. It strips the continent from all its humanitarian and cultural ingredients to remain only in the eyes of U.S. capitalism as a trading depot or a company—according to the official American description—suitable for bargaining and the rush of dealers whom the radio's commentary called 'Foreign Businessmen and Investors.'

"From such approach, the American radio—by revealing Washington's insistence upon flagrant interference in African internal affairs and sabotage Africa's independent development" plans—when exactly says that the economic approach of the African states south of the great Sahara lies within the priorities of the planners of U.S. foreign policies...[sentence as received]

"Then it casts suspicion upon the economic policy pursued by the progressive regime of Africa and calls on those regimes to follow the American advice—which, as declared by the Voice of America radio, is to abandon ambitious huge projects as being fruitless—and open the door for free trade and the activities of foreign investors."

The editor went on to say: "From the U.S. capitalist point of view, everything is for sell and buy even the future of nations. Here we see the Voice of America radio announces clearly in its commentary that the U.S. Administration's head—Reagan—has presented the congress with a project to offer 500 million dollars to the African states which hand over the reins of their economies to the U.S. firms together with another 100 million dollars the U.S. Development Agency—which is run by the CIA—will offer.

"The declared American doctrine of the possibility of buying Africa's sovereignty for several million dollars is an unprecedented insult and which neither the African nations nor the African rulers can bear or swallow."

Concluding his comments, JANA's editor confirmed that this American official commentary—the second of its kind in less than two weeks—reveals the colonial dimensions of the U.S. policies toward Africa which are based upon the following principles:

First:

The elimination of the ingredients of sovereignty in the continent's states which form the economic side the most important of which is the current circumstances and in reciprocity: to enable U.S. capitalists and monopolist companies to take the reins of economy in those states and in the end make them revolve in the orbit of U.S. interests.

Second:

Cause the African states to fall in the trap of debts and tie them by commercial agreements that will widely open the door for American blackmail of those states and confiscate their independent political decisions.

Third:

Plant military bases in the continent through U.S. agents to be on readiness to protect the resultant of the monopolist firms' interests and to hit at any liberation of progressive line that emerges in the continent which might threaten those interests.

From here, the Voice of America radio's saying that Africa is the birth place of 25 million American citizens except as being an official declaration of U.S. colonial far-reaching intentions towards the continent. [sentence as received] That is the same expression used by the Zionist to justify their invasion of Arab Palestine. It is an exposed introduction for creating excuses for U.S. invasion of the brown continent so that Yankees and Zionists replace the old European colonisation of this continent.

Mauritania

Reportage on Trial of 51 Coup Plotters

3 Sentenced to Death

AB031327 Paris AFP in French 1254 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 3 Dec (AFP)—Three officers belonging to the black African ethnic group of the Toucouleurs were sentenced to death today by the Mauritanian Special Court of Justice at the end of the trial of 51 persons involved in the abortive coup d'etat of 22 October 1987, official sources disclosed. The court, which convened in closed session at Jreida, a military base situated 30 km north of Nouakchott, sentenced Lieutenants Ba Seydi, Sarr Amadou, and Sy Saidou to death. Seven persons, including Colonel Anne Amadou Babaly, former minister of the interior, were acquitted.

The court sentenced 18 persons to hard labor for life and 11 others to 20 years' imprisonment with partial hard labor. Three other plotters were sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, three to 5 years, and six others were given 5-year suspended sentences.

More on Babaly Acquittal

AB031503 Paris AFP in French 1433 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Nouakchott, 3 Dec (AFP)—The Mauritanian Special Court, which has been sitting behind closed doors at Jreida, a military base situated 30 kms north of Nouakchott, today sentenced three black African officers to death at the end of the trial of 51 persons involved in an abortive coup d'etat on 22 October 1987 in Mauritania, it was learned from official sources. [passage omitted]

The court also acquitted seven people, including Colonel Anne Amadou Babaly, a former interior minister who, according to official Mauritanian sources, had admitted his involvement in this attempt. Col Babaly, a Toucouleur, was dismissed from the government in August 1986 for partly covering up the agitation of the black community in the country. He was rehabilitated by being given the post of manager of an important public company, the Mauritanian Insurance Company. [passage omitted]

Guilty Have 48 Hours To Appeal

AB031616 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 3 Dec 87

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] A military court in Mauritania has handed down sentences in the trial of over 50 people accused of plotting to overthrow the regime of Colonel Ould Taya. All the accused come from the Toucouleur, one of the country's main black ethnic groups. They were arrested in October after the discovery of the alleged plot. From Nouakchott, (Sheikh Bokaye) cabled this report:

[Begin recording] The prosecution had called for death sentences to be handed down on 11 of the accused. But in the event, the military court sentenced only three to death. They were Lieutenants Ba Saidy, Sarr Amadou, and Sy Saidou Daouda. They have 48 hours to appeal for clemency from the head of state, failing which they will be shot.

The court, sitting at a military base in Jreida, north of Nouakchott, also sentenced 18 of the accused to jail for life. Another 30 were sentenced to prison terms of between 5 and 20 years, and 7 people were acquitted. Among those acquitted was Colonel Anne Amadou Babaly, a former interior minister. He has been accused of having been informed about the plot by the conspirators but [words indistinct] telling the authorities. He admitted [words indistinct] which is an unacceptable defense in Mauritania. Although the court had sat in camera, journalists were admitted for the sentencing. [end recording]

Human Rights League Satisfied

AB032155 Paris AFP in French 1704 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 3 Dec (AFP)—The trial of the 51 Toucouleur soldiers, 3 of whom were condemned to death, "took place in the respect of the requested procedures and under satisfactory conditions," Ghali Ould Abdel Hamid, the chairman of the Mauritanian Federation for Human Rights, declared in Nouakchott today. As far as procedures, the rights of the defense, and the detention conditions of the plotters are concerned, neither the Federation nor the lawyers had anything to say against the trial procedures. Mr Abdel Hamid added that most of the defendants had pleaded guilty saying that their sentences were in conformity with the penal code.

In conclusion, the chairman of the Federation said the coup plotters testified before the court that they were not tortured during their detention and admitted that the trial was conducted normally. The trial of the 22 October plotters accused of an attempted coup d'etat took place behind closed-doors at a military base in the presence of representatives of the Mauritanian League for Human Rights.

Noukachott Reports Sentences

LD040444 Noukachott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] The State Security Court today ended its session, which began in Jreida on 18 November, under the chairmanship of Colonel Sheykh Ould Beida, president of the special court, and in the presence of the court's general attorney, members of the national bar, the chairman of the Human Rights League, and representatives of the world press.

After 16 days of deliberations and hearings of the accused and their attorneys, as well as the public prosecution's indictments, the court has passed the death sentence on First Lieutenants Ba Seydi, Sarr Amadou, and Sy Saidou, thus implementing Clause 88 of the criminal code following the establishment that a crime against the state security had been committed.

For the same crime, the court also passed the sentence of life imprisonment with hard labor on First Lieutenants Diko Abdelkarim, M'gayda Ali Moukhtar, Kan Mamadou, (Ba Abdelrahmane), (Gab Mousa Arimane), (Nou Kan Djibril), and (Bouya Hassan Saharounat); Chief Warrant Officers (Doud Silah), Hassan Omar Ba, (Guy Tata), and (Tam Guedi); Warrant Officers Diab Abdallah and (Tachkachi); ex-Captain Diop Djibril Amadou, and Treasury Controller (Ba Hassan Amadou).

The court charged Staff Sergeants (Kaj Ourou), Mamadou Hassan, and (Mamadou Ahabi Ta); Sergeants (Othman Abul Sow), Sam Abdallah, (Ba Mousam Amadou), and (Dow Amadou Sadeou); Warrant Officer (Majadi Mamadou Sadeou); and Corporal (Dibi Al Matif Fil) with harming state security. They were sentenced to 20 years hard labor.

The court also sentenced First Lieutenant (Barou Mousadgouman), Warrant Officer (Sey Hamadi Racine), Corporal Chief (Jibi Doua), Staff Sergeant (Kan Ibrahima Amadou), and retired Police Inspector (Di Mamadou Boukar) to 10 years imprisonment with hard labor, together with a 300,000 ouguiya fine for harming state security.

The State Security Court charged First Lieutenants (Bay Ikayfal) and (Ken Harouna), and Warrant Officer (Ken Mamadou) with not informing authorities of the harm to state security and sentenced them to 5 years imprisonment and a fine of 300,000 ouguiyas.

The court also charged First Lieutenants [name indistinct], Ba Boubakeur, Ouam Abdallah, and (Jan Moukhtar), and Warrant Officers [name indistinct] and (Sey Moussa Filali) with not informing authorities of the harm to state security and sentenced them to a suspended prison sentence and a fine of 300,000 ouguiyas.

The court found Col Anne Amadou Babaly; Navy Officer (Ken Amadou); Chief Warrant Officers (Ouen Abdallah) and (Chamara Daouda); Warrant Officers (Shiekh Ahmed Tijen) and (Ken Dillous); and retired Chief Warrant Officer (Ba Hassan Rachid) not guilty of harming state security.

The court ordered that the property of the accused be confiscated in accordance with Paragraph 6 of Clause 21 of Decree 118/85, issued 28 May 1985.

Opposition Condemns Trial

AB041121 Paris AFP in French 1010 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Dakar, 4 Dec (AFP)—The trial of black Mauritanian Army officers, which has just ended in Nouakchott with three of them being sentenced to death, is only a "stage production to keep the black community from power," the African Liberation Forces of Mauritania (FLAM), a clandestine movement of black intellectuals, stated in a communique delivered to AFP in Dakar today. The black African movement absolutely denies that the plotters had planned to create a black state under the name of "Republic of Waalo."

The FLAM stresses that the trial of those accused of plotting a coup on 22 October was held behind closed doors, in the absence of representatives of the International League for Human Rights, and "in the presence of Moorish promoters of a pan-Arab political movement—notoriously racist—grouped together in a so-called Mauritanian League for Human Rights."

According to the black movement, one of the officers sentenced to hard labor for life, Lieutenant Abdoul Khoudrous Ba, was extradited by Algeria in exchange for the sending of Arab-Berber people to Western Sahara "in order to increase the number of Saharans favorable to the Polisario Front" in view of a possible referendum in the territory. The FLAM calls on the International League for Human Rights, the Association of African Jurists, and all humanitarian organizations to put pressure on the Nouakchott government to "avoid a bloodbath."

Morocco

King Hassan Views Arab Ties, Sahara Conflict

NC040851 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2215 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—King Hassan II of Morocco has asserted that even if the Arab emergency summit in Amman had achieved nothing except to allow countries to exercise their full sovereignty and to restore ties with fraternal Egypt, this would have been enough.

In an exclusive interview with Ibrahim Nafi', chief editor of *Al-Ahram*, the Moroccan king stated: I believe that Egypt is more important to us inside the Arab League than within the framework of bilateral relations. In an interview that the newspaper will publish tomorrow in its Friday edition, the king added that Egypt's influence inside the Arab League in formulating, preparing, facilitating, and processing resolutions is much more important to the Arab nation than is having some Arab countries restore relations with Cairo. The king then noted that something is better than nothing.

In answering a question on what the future course and priorities of joint Arab action should be after the Amman summit, King Hassan replied that regional dangers overshadowed the summit. He asserted that if the Gulf situation had not been explored fully, tactically, and strategically, then this concern would have continued to overshadow the entire Arab region. He continued: What is now taking place between Iraq and Iran is much less dangerous, despite its seriousness, than what is happening underground and in secret. The Iraq-Iran war will end one day, but its seeds will threaten many Arab countries. The roots of these seeds are ideological and political, not religious. I fear this more than anything else that affects the Islamic and Arab worlds. These matters are much more dangerous than the Gulf war.

In discussing the efforts that he believes are necessary to confront the dangers arising from Iranian threats to the Gulf countries, King Hassan stressed that a solution lies more in dialogue than in anything else. The fact that there is a war with another party should not prevent others from holding a dialogue.

The Moroccan king expressed his hope that the Muslims will meet at an Islamic summit, where there will at least be a single background and a common denominator; namely, there is no God but God, and Muhammad is His prophet. The king added: We can build bridges between Sunnis and Shi'ites on the basis of this common denominator. We can build bridges between them so that the difference between what is purely political and what is religious will become clear to all. Ambiguities and the mixing of politics and religion will thus disappear. The Islamic countries will then take precautionary measures to protect themselves from being overwhelmed by foreign languages and Western culture. At the same time, they will ensure that they don't miss the boat or miss out on progress.

The Moroccan king then answered a question on the possibility of convening an international peace conference and the Arab and Palestinian participation in it. He stated that such a conference is the only way to tackle the Palestinian issue and asked: Have the Arab confrontation states drawn up a strategic and tactical plan for convening the international conference or not? There are two opinions. The first is to let the confrontation states hold the conference alone. The second is to let them seek the help of other Arab countries. I believe we should have a number of options and not only a single one when we go to the conference. It is important not to abandon principles. We Arabs must prepare a program or a plan on both the minimum and the maximum. The peace conference will not achieve the desired results without this.

When asked whether there are future steps on the Arab-Israeli conflict, King Hassan replied that he has no plans and that he is committed to the collective stand tied to the Fes summit resolutions. He commented: If there are plans in this respect, then they must originate with the concerned parties; namely, Syria, Jordan, and Palestine. They must find a formula, even a temporary one, to stand united and make unified demands. They must postpone their disagreements so they can solve the big problem. But the how and when is their business.

The Moroccan king then discussed the Sahara problem and stated: Morocco had held a plebiscite giving the inhabitants of the Sahara the right to self-determination. The plebiscite was based on the premise that such a device is the best vehicle for peace anywhere on earth, particularly in the Arab world. He added: Everyone knows where the Polisario lives. It has no land, no state, no capital, and no system—nothing at all. It exists in a territory that has names, borders, flags, an identity, as well as a seat in all international forums.

King Hassan next examined the unity of the Arab Maghreb. He explained: Morocco considers any effort to bring any two countries of the Arab Maghreb together to be a positive, noble, and honest one. This is because we want to establish the Arab Maghreb, regardless of whether we start in the east, west, or from the middle. I therefore welcome any rapprochement.

The Moroccan king also discussed his call to hold an Islamic summit following the Mecca incidents. He continued: I did call for convening a summit, but I did not call for it to be held in Morocco. I would have participated in this meeting no matter where it was held. However, Iran did not respond to the call. Despite this, I do not believe that Iran will remain at home and not attend, if such a summit is convened to discuss future plans and not events of the past. I am confident that Iran will attend, but it has not yet replied to us.

Osman Discusses Sahara Situation, Referendum

PM031507 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 4 Dec 87 pp 32-35

[Interview with Ahmed Osman, speaker of the Chamber of Representatives, by 'Afaf Zayn in Rabat; date not given]

[Excerpts] *Al-Hawadith*: Both official and independent newspapers are reporting Morocco's opinion that the current presence of the UN mission in the Sahara is a last golden opportunity to resolve the conflict. What are the precise political concepts of such a development?

Osman: This is a technical committee whose job is to inspect what is happening in the Sahara, as well as to review development work and projects carried out in various areas. These provinces were only fallow, neglected, and deserted land when we recovered them from Spain in early 1976, following the tripartite agreement in Madrid.

We hope that the current visit of the committee will be a final stage aimed at preparing conditions for conducting the referendum. To further clarify myself, this committee has not been delegated to conduct the referendum itself. Its mission is instead to collect information and facts to prepare suitable conditions for holding an open and honest referendum in which the inhabitants can express their opinions. [passage omitted]

Al-Hawadith: Since Hassan II proposed the idea of a referendum at the 1981 summit in Nairobi, all parties have continued to agree on this concept. Differences focus on only procedural matters. Do these differences come under the jurisdiction of the UN committee currently in the Sahara?

Osman: Our opponents have no desire to conduct the referendum. Proof of this is that in early 1976, and without considering the opinion of the inhabitants, they proclaimed the so-called republic. Then, after they agreed to the proposal Hassan II made at the Nairobi summit, they ignored the summit resolutions and instead demanded direct negotiations prior to another African summit in 1983. These opponents even went beyond this and imposed that republic as a member of the international community.

Al-Hawadith: Everything you have referred to confirms the Moroccan viewpoint, which considers the visit of the UN committee to be the last golden opportunity to resolve the dispute. Was the visit of your foreign minister to Algeria within this context? Also, what were the contents of the message King Hassan sent to the Algerian president?

Osman: I do not have any details on the contents of the message delivered by Dr Abdellatif Filali. However, I believe that the initiative of his majesty is part of Morocco's desire to keep channels open.

Al-Hawadith: What are the present features of the Algerian-Moroccan relationship and has the recent escalation wasted the mediation efforts by Saudi Arabia and the three-tent meeting last March?

Osman: I do not think that matters have cooled down for one second, contrary to what many believe. Media campaigns by Algeria have not slackened at all, despite the mediation you referred to. As for Morocco, it is not mounting campaigns on this issue, either on television or in the press. There are discussions on the situation. There are articles that sometimes strongly criticize the Algerian stands, but this is done politely. In my view, we have not yet noticed any slackening in the Algerian media campaigns. I wholeheartedly hope that this will happen. It is an essential prerequisite for a dialogue as well as for continuing efforts aimed at achieving a peaceful solution.

Al-Hawadith: In a statement you recently made to French radio, you said that "if it proves difficult to implement the referendum, Morocco will preserve all of its rights." Is it possible to further clarify this point? Also, if it does prove difficult to institute the referendum, would this then mean that the "golden opportunity" would be wasted and that the Saharan conflict would continue unresolved?

Osman: Of course I remember what I said in regard to this. This is because the idea of the referendum actually contradicts our Moroccan principles and rights. A referendum should not be conducted in part of the homeland in connection with its territorial integrity. Morocco, however, wanted to confront rivals with the same logic that they are promoting. At the 1981 summit in Nairobi, Hassan II greeted the enemies of his territorial integrity by employing their own reasoning and weapons. He called for the idea of the referendum. We accepted this as further material to add to both historical and legal evidence, as well as to the important document represented by the Madrid agreement. Morocco's acceptance of the referendum does not mean that Rabat will ever abandon its rights or be prepared to drop the southern provinces from its map.

If circumstances prevented the referendum from being carried out—for we believe that the opponents of our territorial integrity oppose this vote—we would have no choice but to preserve our rights in full. These rights are maintained by both administrative and military institutions, as well as by development projects and great achievements in the southern provinces. We strongly hope that nothing will hamper the implementation of the referendum. We also hope that matters will return to their normal course following an honest and open referendum. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Military Operations in Kurmuk Region Continue

'Text' of Communique

JN031806 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1727 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Dec (SUNA)—The Armed Forces General Command issued a communique this evening, Thursday. It stated that an Armed Forces patrol clashed with rebel forces, supported by Ethiopian and Cuban forces, over the past 2 days. The communique added that the patrol employed specific tactics dictated by the local situation to carry out their offensive and defensive operations. The General Command reassured the citizens on the situation and affirmed the cohesion of the Armed Forces. It also stated that the Armed Forces are fighting valiantly and with high morale, and that they will recapture every inch of the homeland's territory. The following is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God the Almighty says: Let those then fight in the cause of God who would sell the present life for the hereafter. And he who fights in the cause of God, be he slain or be he victorious, we shall soon give him a great reward. [Koranic verse]

Your Armed Forces are now waging fierce battles in a war imposed on them. They are protecting the national unity and territorial integrity of their country from every sinful aggressor. Over the past 2 days, one of our patrols clashed with the rebel forces, which are supported by Ethiopian and Cuban forces. Our patrol used specific tactics dictated by the local situation to conduct their offensive and defensive operations. We would like to reassure the dear citizens and tell them that there is cohesion binding their Armed Forces. Our soldiers are fighting valiantly and with high morale. We also state that they will recapture every inch of the homeland's territory. We will notify you on any new developments, to keep everyone informed about events in the theaters of operations. We will also do this to refute the claims of those who falsify facts to undermine the confidence of the citizens. God is great, and only God grants success.

Army's Efforts 'Going Well'

JN031518 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 3 Dec (SUNA)—Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Council, today, Thursday, received General Fawzi Ahmad al-Faddil, commander in chief of the Armed Forces. Gen Fawzi briefed Al-Mirghani on the security situation in the country and that of the Armed Forces around Sudan.

In a press statement following the meeting, the commander in chief noted that the situation is fully reassuring, that the Armed Forces are holding the reins of initiative, and that the measures to recapture Kurmuk are going well. He declined to give any further details.

OLF on Ethiopian 'Involvement'

JN032035 Khartoum SUNA in English 1722 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 3, (SUNA)—A leading source of the Ethiopian Oromo Liberation Front (OLF) has disclosed the involvement of the Ethiopian regime in the agressions on the Sudanese borders launched by Sudan People's Liberation Movement "SPLM" of Col. John Garang. The source also said that the Ethiopian artillery has actually participated in the attack on Kurmuk, and the Ethiopian garrison of Asosa town has for long been supplying Garang's base in Ethiopia with men and arms. He also reaffirmed that Garang's and Ethiopian forces crossed the borders, cannoned and missiled Kurmuk and captured it when the Sudanese Armed Forces withdrew. The source also stated that the Ethiopian troops who participated in the attack returned with food stuffs, garments and equipment.

The OLF's source also pointed out that the Ethiopian Government has given full freedom to Garang's forces to move from Kurmuk along the borders as far as the Kenyan borders, they are also allowed to establish schools and houses in the border zone, and that they are allowed to put on the uniform of the Ethiopian troops. The source also denied the allegations that Ethiopia had actually intended to attack the Oromo forces and not Kurmuk, noting that the Oromo are based about 150 km to the south and east of the Ethiopian Asosa—far away from Kurmuk.

The Oromo's source also revealed that Ethiopia paved a 50 km-long road that extend from Asosa to the west into the Sudanese territories. The Sudanese Armed Forces smashed the road during the Jokau operation in last April. However, the Ethiopians are now trying to rebuild the road. The source said that the OLF maintains good relations with the Sudanese Government but said that there is no military cooperation with the Sudan's Army.

Ethiopian Found 'Spying' on Military Garrison

JN021203 Khartoum SUNA in English 1018 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum Dec 2 (SUNA)—An Ethiopian national was arrested by security forces in Sannar town in Central Region for espionage the daily *Al-Siyasah* published today said. The Ethiopian was spotted spying on the town's military garrison and a nearby electricity generating station the daily added. Primary investigations with the Ethiopian national showed the cooperation of the Ethiopian with the rebel movement of Col John Garang in communicating information, the daily said.

Official, Ugandan Envoy Discuss Border Issues

EA031054 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] Dr Pacifico Lado Lolik, member of the State Council, received the Ugandan ambassador to Khartoum this morning at his office in the Republican Palace. The two men discussed issues of mutual interest, as well as Ugandan efforts to bring about peace in Sudan and to harmonize views to achieve peace and security in the common border areas.

The Ugandan ambassador said that his government does not allow assistance to the Garang movement to pass through Ugandan territory. He stated that a large number of Ugandan refugees have returned home. In discussing the Kurmuk events, the Ugandan ambassador noted that he (?condemns) interference in the internal affairs of other countries.

Idris al-Banna, USSR Ambassador Hold Talks

EA031029 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] Mr Idris al-Banna, member of the State Council, held talks with his excellency the Soviet ambassador to Khartoum today. They discussed the development of bilateral relations in various fields. Talks concentrated on the development of bilateral ties, particularly in the fields of economy, training, and the planning of projects established in Sudan with Soviet assistance. The ambassador noted that a group of Soviet experts is expected to visit Sudan to conduct research in connection with this.

The two sides additionally reviewed some trade issues and expressed their hope that this sector would be developed. The ambassador then extended an invitation to a delegation of the Constituent Assembly to visit the USSR. Also discussed was the expected summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Pressing world issues and regional questions were also discussed.

Bahrain

Further on Suspects in S. Korean Jet Bombing

OW040303 Tokyo KYODO in English 0252 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Manama, Dec. 4 KYODO—A man who committed suicide before Bahrain authorities had a chance to question him about a Korean Air [KA] jumbo jet which went missing on November 30 had left his signature with the Korean Embassy here, according to information *Kyodo News Service* obtained Friday. KYODO received from Korean Embassy sources copies of the autograph the man signed in the name of "Shinichi Hachiya" and of photographs of the man and his female companion named "Mayumi Hachiya."

The two boarded the KA jetliner at Baghdad, disembarked at Abu Dhabi and later arrived at Manama aboard another flight. The Korean plane with 115 people aboard went missing on November 30 over the Burma-Thai border. The Korean Embassy sources said Second Secretary Kim Chong-ki called on the two at their hotel around 9:30 p.m. on November 30. They communicated mostly in writing and Kim obtained "Hachiya's" signature. The man carried a falsified passport since the real Shinichi Hachiya, who lives in Tokyo, has shown Japanese authorities his real passport. According to Kim, "Hachiya" totally refused to respond to him in Korean and spoke little English.

The man wrote "Shinichi Hachiya" when Kim asked him to write his name and address. The embassy sources said the signatures of "Shinichi Hachiya" and "Mayumi Hachiya" written in the two passports were so much alike that they suspect both were signed by "Hachiya" himself. They said the two told Kim they were father and daughter.

Oman

'Text' of Statement on Iranian Economic Talks

JN032158 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Dec 87

["Text" of final statement issued by Oman and Iran on their economic talks held in Muscat from 30 November to 3 December; date not given]

[Text] In accordance with the recommendations issued following the meeting of His Excellency Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, with His Excellency 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian foreign minister, in the Islamic Republic of Iran; and in consolidation of the relations of cooperation, friendship, and fraternal Islamic amity between the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran, an Iranian economic delegation led by His Excellency Mahmud Va'ezi, economic advisor of the Iranian foreign minister, paid a 4-day visit to the Sultanate. During their stay, the Iranian delegation held economic talks with a party of Omani officials led by His Excellency Hamud ibn Hilal al-Harithi, Ministry of Finance and Economy under secretary for economic affairs.

During the official visit, the Iranian delegation met with Qays ibn 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; His Excellency Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; His Excellency Ahmad ibn 'Abd al-Nabi Makki, under secretary at the Ministry of Trade and Industry; and His Excellency Maqbul ibn Sultan, head of the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry. During these meetings, the two sides discussed the aspects of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. Both parties reviewed the general framework of cooperation in various fields. Each agreed to encourage bilateral contacts in all fields to become acquainted with the sectors in which cooperation is possible.

Within this framework, the two sides agreed to seek the following bilateral cooperation:

1. To encourage the exchange of visits by economic and technical delegations between the two countries in both the public and private sectors.

2. To encourage each country's holding trade exhibitions in the other state.

3. To encourage industrial contacts between the two countries and to exchange delegations in this field to benefit from each other's expertise.

4. To hold the necessary contacts for cooperation in the possible technical fields between the two countries.

The meetings were concluded with a spirit of complete cooperation, as the two sides noted the brotherly atmosphere that prevailed during their talks. They also expressed satisfaction with the fruitful results that will enhance bilateral cooperation.

PDRY

Soviet Delegation to Celebrations Departs

EA022047 Aden ANA in Arabic 1325 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] A Soviet delegation led by Comrade Pavel G. Gilashvili, deputy chairman of the [Supreme Soviet] Presidium and president of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic, departed Aden yesterday evening after a visit of several days. The guests had celebrated the 20th anniversary of our national independence with our people.

Comrade Gilashvili told ANA: Everything we have seen during our visit has convinced us that the Yemeni people are progressing along the right path. We have viewed the fruits of their socialist orientation and we reaffirm that the party and state leadership has selected the correct path for the friendly Yemeni people. This path adds to the responsibility of your party and your government, not only toward the Yemeni people, but also toward other peoples.

At the end of his statement, Comrade Gilashvili expressed his profound happiness at visiting Democratic Yemen. This visit left him and his accompanying delegation with wonderful impressions. He wished our party and people further success on the path of socialist orientation.

He was seen off by Comrade Brigadier Salih Munassir al-Siyayli, member of the Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of interior; and other officials.

Al-Bid Receives Soviet Fisheries Minister

EA021808 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 1 Dec 87

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, met with Comrade Nikolay Kotlyar, Soviet minister of fish industry, this evening. During their meeting, they stressed the necessity of (?accelerating) the implementation of projects and the full exploitation of fish resources in our country.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

EA030518 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 1 Dec 87

[Summary] An economic and technical cooperation protocol was signed in Aden today by Salim Muhammad Jubran, minister of fisheries, and Nikolay Kotlyar, Soviet minister of fishing industries. The protocol covers the development of fishing cooperatives, the development of Aden's fishing port which opened in November 1987, the establishment of a fisheries complex on Suqutra Island, and training.

YAR

Libya's Al-Hamidi Arrives, Makes Statement

JN021959 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] Brother 'Umar al-Hamidi, secretary general of the Arab People's Congress in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and envoy of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, arrived in Sanaa today on a visit scheduled to last several days.

In an arrival statement to *Saba' News Agency*, Al-Hamidi said he is bringing a message to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. This message is part of the fraternal efforts to meet the challenges facing the Arab nation and to serve the Arab masses. Brother al-Hamadi noted that his visit is an opportunity to exchange views on a number of issues. These issues serve the struggle of the Arab nation to liberate Palestine, to unify the Arab nation, and to realize progress to enable the Arab nation to create unifying factors. This unification would affect the various cultural, economic, and defensive levels enabling it to repel the strategic imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

He added: This visit will be an opportunity to salute the Arab Yemeni people. We consider them a fraternal people connected to us by blood relations, Arab ties, Islamic bonds, and joint interests and aims.

Brother al-Hamadi expressed confidence that united Yemen will be a reality, God willing, for Yemeni unity was previously established through the struggle of the Yemeni people. These Yemenis will in the future be the builders of the Arab-Islamic state and the makers of a cultural fortress for resisting all forms of political and cultural invasion.

In concluding his statement, Al-Hamidi expressed the hope that his visit will be a step toward Arab unity. He declared that relations between the Jamahiriyah and Yemen are fraternal and are proceeding in a common direction. He also indicated that the visit of the Yemeni prime minister to the Jamahiriyah was a step for comprehensive unity between the two countries, God willing.

Brother al-Hamadi was received at the airport by Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, secretary of the Standing Committee; Brother Muhammad 'Umar Tawlah, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Sanaa; and a representative from the Department of Protocol at the presidency.

Received by President Salih

JN031840 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received Brother 'Umar al-Hamidi, secretary general of the Arab People's Congress in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, at his office this morning. During the meeting, Brother al-Hamidi delivered a message to the president from his brother, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September Revolution. The message concerns the efforts and consultations to close Arab ranks to confront the dangers facing the Arab nation. It also touches on the relations between the Yemeni 26 September Revolution and the Libyan 1 September Revolution, as well as ways to promote and consolidate these ties to benefit the interests and objectives of the two peoples in the two fraternal countries.

The meeting was attended by Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, secretary of the Standing Committee, and 'Ali Salih Mansur, the Libyan charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Tariq 'Aziz on Arab Summit, UN Visit

JN041020 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 1 Dec 87 p 7

[By Majid al-Lami]

[Text] During its session yesterday, chaired by Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker, the National Assembly invited Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to answer questions put to him by the chairman and members of the Arab and International Relations Committee.

Asked about the president's role at the extraordinary Amman summit, particularly with regard to the achievement of Arab solidarity and joint pan-Arab action, and the most important results of the summit, especially with regard to the Iraq-Iran war and UN Security Council Resolution 598, Tariq 'Aziz said:

By attending the extraordinary Amman summit, leader President Saddam Husayn played a prominent role in strengthening Arab solidarity and emphasizing the need to support the institutions of joint pan-Arab action within the framework of the Arab League to further the interests of the Arab nation in confronting Iranian and Zionist challenges and aggression. The president's attendance at the Amman summit is also linked to his participation in the second Fes summit with its positive results regarding the Iraq-Iran war and Iraq's legitimate defense of its land and sovereignty.

'Aziz referred to the leader president's speech at the first working session of the Amman summit in which he defined the summit's course. He said the speech was a plan for joint Arab action, particularly with regard to unifying Arab stands to confront the Zionist Iranian aggression against Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and other Arabian Gulf countries. 'Aziz said the president's speech concentrated on the commitment to the Arab League Charter and the Collective Arab Defense Pact. 'Aziz noted that the summit adopted resolutions on the Iraq-Iran war, Security Council Resolution 598, the Iranian aggression against Kuwait, and the criminal Iranian aggression in the vicinity of the Mecca Mosque. He asserted that the resolutions clearly and firmly condemned Iranian aggression and urged a commitment to effective solidarity with Iraq in its defense of its territory and sovereignty, as well as with the other fraternal Arabian Gulf countries. 'Aziz said the president raised the issue of Arab relations with Egypt from a comprehensive Arab angle and also called for a stand on the Lebanese question and Lebanon's difficult conditions.

The foreign minister also discussed the material and moral support for the Arab League and its institutions so that they can carry out their pan-Arab responsibility in the present and future stages, thus bolstering the efforts of a national institution that has in the past suffered from difficult conditions that almost paralyzed it.

With regard to the talks he will be holding with the UN secretary general in New York next week, the foreign minister said he will visit New York to discuss with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar the Iranian stand on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598. He added that Perez de Cuellar will discuss the same topic with the representative of the Iranian regime.

Asked about the stand of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz reviewed the stands of the United States, the Soviet Union, France, China, and Britain on Resolution 598 and their interpretation of the Iranian stand on the resolution, referring to the need to adopt the subsequent resolution on imposing sanctions on Iran for its refusal to implement Security Council Resolution 598.

Asked about the recent visit by FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to Baghdad and the connection between the visit and Bonn's stand on the war, Tariq 'Aziz replied: The FRG minister heard in detail the Iraqi view on the war, its background, developments, and the results were useful.

Asked about the visit by the Iranian regime's foreign minister to Tokyo and Japan's stand on the war, 'Aziz discussed Japan's stand, its relations with both Iraq and Iran, and its participation in adopting Resolution 598. He noted that the Japanese stand was explained to the Iranian regime's foreign minister and published by the media.

Asked about Europe's stand on the implementation of Resolution 598, the foreign minister reviewed the stand of the EEC states on the war and the Security Council Resolution and their relations with the two belligerents. He asserted that the stands of the European states have been declared and are well known.

Asked if the Iraq-Iran war will be discussed at the forthcoming U.S.-Soviet summit scheduled to be held in Washington in early December, 'Aziz said the war will be discussed at the Reagan-Gorbachev summit together with a number of other regional and international issues. He expressed the hope that the Reagan-Gorbachev talks will be useful in furthering the cause of peace and stopping the war in view of the two superpowers' role at the Security Council and in view of the consultations on implementing Security Council Resolution 598, adding he did not want to jump to conclusions.

According to National Assembly sources, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister presented a comprehensive, detailed, and frank review to the representatives of the people so that they would be informed about the political stand on various Arab and world issues.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

Iranian Losses Detailed

JN031454 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Dec (INA)—Through 26 air raids, the Iraqi helicopter gunships inflicted new losses on the Iranian forces, their personnel, positions, weapons, and vehicles in the battlefields. They then returned safely to base. An Iraqi military spokesman told INA that the Iraqi forces killed 10 Iranian personnel, destroyed 6 infantry positions, 4 observation posts, a shovel [preceding word in English], and damaged 2 others. They also destroyed three machineguns and a tractor, blew up two ammunition dumps, and burned six vehicles in the operation sectors.

Communique No 2,938

JN031745 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,938 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 3 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces will continue to be an example of the Iraqi citizen's ability and courage in defending Iraq and protecting the achievements of the Iraqis' glorious revolution. The following is a roundup of our forces' activities for last night and today:

1. Our daring helicopter gunships today carried out 26 combat missions. During these missions, they inflicted new losses on Iranian personnel, weapons, and equipment. Afterward, they returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. A large vehicle was burned and destroyed, its personnel were killed, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector.

3. Two enemy personnel were killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah engaged enemy units before them and achieved the following: the destruction of a shovel [preceding word in English] and the damaging of another, the destruction and burning of a vehicle, the destruction of a heavy machinegun and the killing of its personnel, and the destruction of an observation post and infantry position.

5. An infantry position and two observation posts were destroyed, a vehicle was burned, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

6. A large vehicle was burned and its personnel were killed and four infantry positions and a tractor were destroyed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

7. A single-barreled machinegun was destroyed and its personnel were killed and a vehicle was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris.

8. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector inflicted on the aggressors the following losses: eight scoundrels killed, one vehicle burned, one shovel damaged, and an observation post and machinegun destroyed and those manning it killed.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 December 1987

Claims of Downed Plane Denied

JN031810 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1753 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Dec (INA)—Iraq denied Iranian allegations on downing an Iraqi plane today. In a statement to INA, an Iraqi military spokesman said these allegations are baseless and are used by the Iranian regime to feed its propaganda machine, which only produces lies. The spokesman said that there were no Iraqi Air Force activities deep in Iranian territory today and that this is enough to expose the Iranians' lies. The Iraqi Armed Forces General Command's communique today said that only Iraqi helicopters carried out 26 combat missions against Iranian concentrations in the battlefields.

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN040705 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0649 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Statement by military spokesman dated 4 December 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our heroic Air Force continues to inflict violent blows upon the important economic pillars of aggression and to sever the oil supplies employed by the ruling gang in Tehran to serve its evil objectives and Zionist goals. At 0710 [0410 GMT] today, our daring pilots attacked a large maritime target off the Iranian coast, scoring an accurate and effective hit. Our pilots returned safely to base protected by God.

[Dated] 4 December 1987

Kahane Denies Involvement in Threats to France

NC032135 Paris AFP in English 2122 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Jerusalem, Dec 3 (AFP)—Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the ultra-nationalist Kach Party, denied involvement Thursday in threats against France that followed the extradition from Israel of convicted murderer William Naccache, a Kach Party spokesman said.

"Neither Deputy Kahane nor any member of his party has ever made such threats," the Kach Party spokesman said in a call to *Agence France-Presse*.

On Wednesday, an anonymous caller to AFP claiming to represent the Jewish Defence League (JDL), an ultra-Zionist organization founded by Rabbi Kahane in the United States, made threats against French diplomats in Israel.

"If a single hair of William Naccache's head is harmed... the blood of French diplomats will flow in Tel Aviv," warned the caller, who said the threat would be carried out by an underground wing of the JDL known as "thunder of Zion."

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli lawyer who fought against Mr. Naccache's extradition, Roland Roth, filed a complaint following the reported threats.

"These threats can harm my client... as well as Israel," the lawyer said.

Mr. Naccache, a 27-year-old Algerian-born Jew, had been sentenced to life imprisonment in absentia for the killing of an Algerian in Besancon, eastern France, in 1983, and was extradited to face a retrial. He arrived in France late Wednesday.

Leading Zionists and ultra-orthodox Jews had fought to block the extradition of Mr. Naccache, who had practiced as an orthodox Jew in Israel, where he fled before the trial.

Rabbi Kahane, a New York-born Jew, who represents Kach in the Israeli Parliament, plans to travel to France soon to organize a campaign of support for Mr. Naccache and lobby for him to be allowed "to serve his sentence in Israel," the Kach Party spokesman said.

U.S. Asked 'Not To Intervene' in 'Awwad Case

TA041522 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 4 Dec 87 p A6

[Report by Refa'el Mann]

[Text] Israel has asked the U.S. Administration not to intervene in the affair of Dr Mubarak 'Awwad, whose visa has not been extended by the Interior Ministry. The request was submitted to State Department officials by Israeli diplomats in Washington after the deputy chief of mission in the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv submitted a request to avoid his deportation.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday said he has not made a final decision regarding 'Awwad's deportation, adding that the decision will be made shortly.

Decision To Close PLO Washington Office Assailed

TA032105 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Dec 87 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "A New American Hostile Act"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, in a manner that reflects the U.S. desire to proceed in the same hostile approach toward the Palestinian problem, and in a feverish wish to distance any effective Palestinian presence from the U.S. arena, the U.S. Federal Court issued a ruling endorsing the State Department decision to close the Palestinian information office in Washington. [passage omitted]

It is no secret to anyone that the U.S. Federal Court ruling, which coincided with Egypt's decision to reopen the PLO offices in Cairo amid increasing support in international circles for legitimate Palestinian rights, came in order to soothe Israeli feelings. The ruling constitutes a new guarantee affirming the U.S. Administration's loyalty to its commitments toward Israel. [passage omitted]

The U.S. decision against the Palestinian information office in Washington, including the perils that this decision entails, aims first of all at distancing the Palestinian presence from the international arena. This decision should foster a unified Arab position that goes beyond condemnation, indignation, and denunciation, and calls for effective Arab action with the same criterion as that used by the Americans.

The United States will not cease its hostile practices against Palestinian and Arab rights as long as its interests in the Arab region are immune from retaliation. These practices will continue as long as no changes take place in the Arab position that would force the U.S. Administration to take the will of the Arabs into consideration and change its own positions.

U.S. Envoy's Remarks on Palestinians Criticized

TA031908 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 3 Dec 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Imaginary Improvement and the Inalienable National Rights"]

[Text] The U.S. Administration repeats every once in a while its infamous expression of "improving the quality of life" for us in the occupied land. It does so on every occasion that it deems fit in order to perpetuate its odd definition of our entire Palestinian cause on the basis of "improving" the livelihood only, as if the national rights of our people are mere human rights not going beyond "mercy and charity."

Three days ago Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to Israel, repeated this "charitable" expression to members of the Israeli Labor Party branch in Haifa. He elaborated on his country's concern over the "growing state of frustration among Palestinians." He made this remark within the context of what he perceives as the need to speedily confront this alleged frustration before time runs out, because, as he said and according to this "charitable" theory, time is not working in favor of the United States or Israel.

In this way the U.S. ambassador is trying to support Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres who is calling attention to the "demographic" problem in his confrontation with the Herut Movement led by Yitzhaq Shamir which dismisses this notion. This effort by the U.S. ambassador, however, is one that is based as usual on complete disavowal of the Palestinian national rights and on leveling the charge of terrorism at our Palestinian people or accusing them of being frustrated.

Our Palestinian people have rejected this shortsighted U.S. view of their fateful cause. They are continuing to assert their position by every possible means on the basis of affirming their national rights through their own authority, represented by the PLO, as well as through Arab and international authority. If the U.S. Administration persists in its traditional intransigence despite all international changes, it would be painting itself into a political corner. It would be acting like a small country that has no weight in the region's political equations.

Indeed, time is not working in favor of the United States and Israel, but this obvious and explicit fact is not due to frustration or discouragement on the part of the Palestinians as claimed by U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering. Alleged U.S.-Israeli charity and improvement projects will not reverse this fact. The reality that time is working against the United States and Israel is the direct result of the will of most countries of the world to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East that ensures the national rights of our Palestinian people. As long as resistance to this will continues in Washington and Tel Aviv, time will not work in favor of peace.

Antimissile Research With U.S. Urged

TA301204 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Nov 87 p 9

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Adventure or Opportunity"]

[Text] Is Israel about to set out on a new economic-security adventure similar to the Lavi project by agreeing to participate and invest in a U.S. research project on an antimissile missile system? Some people believe this is the case, while others claim that Israel must enter this field because Arab states—Syria, for example—are equipping themselves with chemical missile warheads, and also because the Soviet Union may supply the Arab states with the accurate SS-23 missile.

We should start out by saying that it is highly unlikely that Israel will ever be able to build a foolproof defense system against surface-to-surface missiles. Even if we were to make progress in this research with the Americans' help, it would cost billions of dollars to defend the whole country from a missile attack and, in any event, no such umbrella would be hermetic.

Israel will never have such enormous sums to spend on antimissile defense. Even if we should suddenly become rich, it is doubtful whether we would invest such incredible sums in this, taking into consideration the relative danger facing us in this sphere—even if the missiles become more accurate and have more efficient warheads—in comparison to other threats. Even a defensive system concentrating on no more than several dozen targets would cost a fortune.

In any case, if at some point in the distant future Israel were to deploy such systems, they would defend only a few points of significant strategic importance. The question of desirability becomes more acute when we realize that high-quality manpower is involved here. In the past, we were happy that their fear of the Israeli Air Force forced the Arab states to invest their best manpower and their best resources in air defense. Israel's security concept has always been based on the need to invest primarily in "claws," in offensive rather than defensive ability. Why should we change this concept now? Is it profitable to invest in defense systems against surface-to-surface missiles when a question mark hovers over our ability to deploy such systems on a broad scale?

When we are talking about deploying such expensive systems and changing our security concept, putting more stress on defensive systems, the answer seems to be negative. Despite the apparent contradiction, however, I think we should take advantage of the research opportunity that has come our way.

The answer has two aspects: one technological and the other political. From the technological point of view, there is no doubt that Israel can only gain from participating in this research, which will introduce it to an advanced approach to new technological spheres. These are spheres in which we are interested, but which we cannot put at a high priority with our current budget.

Without U.S. help, it is doubtful whether we would reach these spheres. At this stage, after holding only initial contacts, it is already possible to say that these areas may contribute toward refreshing our military thinking, a thing which the IDF direly needs. When the United

States and other European countries reach an advanced stage prior to producing this system, Israel will be able to position itself in the front line and will find new markets for its products.

Participation in research on antimissile missiles will create employment for groups of scientists, engineers, and technicians. If U.S. aid for this purpose will amount to approximately $100 million, this will mean employment for some 2,000 people—and that is a lot. It would be extremely stupid to reject these two advantages out of hand, especially since experts believe that these new technologies will help Israel in various areas and will spill over into other important fields.

The third reason brings us to the political aspect. Participation in this research project involves real strategic cooperation with the United States. This was not the case with the Lavi project, where we took from the United States without being able to contribute and dealt in something they opposed. The antimissile missile system, from which other NATO countries stand to benefit, is different. Washington is urging joint cooperation between several countries, including Israel. The sums in question do not amount to billions of dollars in this case. In its present stage, the research involves a sum of approximately $140 million, most of which is U.S. financed.

An important question is: How will this affect our relations with the Soviet Union? Moscow has criticized Israel for its agreement to join the U.S. SDI research, but this has not prevented it from searching for a way to begin a new page in relations with us—especially regarding the international conference. This in itself should not cause Israel to sever its research cooperation with the United States, especially as we are dealing with a defensive system against weapons systems which the Soviet Union is supplying to the Arabs. This is an area in which other NATO countries, such as the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, as well as Japan, are dealing without it harming their relations with the Soviet Union.

The Americans are demanding that Israel help finance the research. Israel agrees in principle, but claims that it cannot contribute much. The size of the sum has not yet been decided, and this is the origin of the internal debate in Israel. Voices in the IDF are saying that the research is important, but that it will mainly help the various industries which will advance into new areas and find new markets. For this reason they, rather than the Army, must bear the financial burden. In any case, this argument must not delay our entry into research with the Americans, and perhaps with other European countries as well.

Greek Stand On Palestinian Problem Lauded

TA032041 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
3 Dec 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Greece and the Required Positions"]

[Excerpts] The visit by Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias to Israel, which ended last evening, contained elements that indicated a change in Greece's position toward Israel. Since Greece does not maintain diplomatic relations with Israel, there is no doubt that this visit can be regarded as the beginning the of normalization of Greek-Israeli relations.

During his meeting with a number of Palestinian notables last evening, the Greek Foreign Minister affirmed that the normalization of relations between Greece and Israel does not mean that the historical and special relationship that binds Greece with the Arab world will be harmed.

He added that Greece's positions are firm and that Greece is committed to the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people's rights. For a long time now Greece has persistently supported the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, which the Greek minister defined yesterday as being the right to self-determination, the right of return, and the establishment of a Palestinian state. Moreover, Greece is commited in principle to the convocation of an international peace conference with the participation of all parties to the conflict, including the PLO. [passage omitted]

We naturally appreciate the Greek positions toward Arab causes and rights in general, and Palestinian rights in particular. Greece was one of the first countries in the world to grant complete diplomatic status to the PLO representation in Athens. This Palestinian representation is treated as an embassy like other embassies of the world's countries in Greece. In this context we shall not forget the aid that Greece provides to the Palestinian people, particularly in the medical and cultural fields.

At the same time we call on the Arab world to exert further serious and sincere efforts in order to create a unified Arab position regarding the convocation of an international peace conference with authority, since the absence of such a position plays a role in strengthening Israeli-U.S. diplomacy. For how can one explain Greece's position which is clearer and more explicit than the positions of many Arab countries regarding the Palestinian problem, the PLO, and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination?

The Greek minister, when he met with the Palestinian notables, heard the positions of the majority of the Palestinian people. These positions call for the establishment of a just, comprehensive, and durable peace through the convocation of an international conference with authority, attended by the PLO on an equal footing with the other parties to the conflict. The Greek minister said: I am aware of the Palestinian people's positions, and for this reason Greece adopted this stance.

EEC Political Pressures on Exports 'Threat'

TA021702 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
2 Dec 87 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Israel has expressed its dismay over the remarks made by EEC representative Claude Cheysson, calling them "a threat and a political dictate." Israel furthermore emphasizes that it will not submit to the political pressures applied by the EEC.

Senior officials in Jerusalem noted that Israel adheres to its opposition to Europe's attempts to link acceptance of Israel's agricultural demands to the issue of agricultural exports from the territories. According to the officials, Israel is prepared to permit farmers from the territories to export their produce under commercial labels that would identify the place from where the goods originated, but this must be done via Israeli marketing bodies.

The EEC, capitulating to Jordan and farmers from the territories, is demanding that the Palestinians in the West Bank be permitted to set up their own independent marketing company. As long as Israel objects to this, the signing of the appendix to the agreement designed to improve the export terms for Israeli agricultural produce to the EEC, and put them on a par with those which Spain and Portugal enjoy, is being withheld.

Shamir Postpones Scheduled Visit to Italy

TA031251 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Dec 87 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will not leave on his scheduled visit to Italy next week. Replying to *Davar's* question, officials in the Prime Minister's Office said that the visit was not canceled but rather postponed to January 1988.

Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that an exact date for the visit has not yet been set. A senior official in Yitzhaq Shamir's office said the visit was postponed because the Zionist Congress is scheduled to convene next week and the prime minister wants to be in Israel at that time. The DAVAR correspondent points out that all the pertinent elements have been aware of the date of the Zionist Congress convention for quite a while.

The official emphasized that there is no question of a crisis in relations between the two countries, and pointed to the Italian president's upcoming official visit to Israel this month as proof of this.

Peres Interviewed on Syria, Superpower Summit

TA040923 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by David Grossman and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami in Peres' residence—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Ben-'Ami] There was a report this morning about mounting criticism in Europe against Syria, which had supposedly chosen the path of peace. In the wake of the hang glider attack, however, there have been reports about Syrian cooperation with and support for Jibril's organization. Your Italian counterpart, Giulio Andreotti, is seeking more detailed information on the matter to reprimand or to check things out with Al-Asad. Do you see a change in Syria's position, direction, and the goodwill which had been attributed to it as of late?

[Peres] Syria's leader, Al-Asad, is a very sly person. He actually tried to impart to the world a point of view which distinguishes between two kinds of terrorism, between bad terrorism and good terrorism, as it were. As you know, he raised a proposal in that vein at the United Nations, but it was rejected. He wanted to accord legitimacy to the attacks against Israel. In my opinion, there is no difference between one kind of terrorism and another. Any kind of terrorism is dangerous, and it must also be dangerous to those who uphold it and engage in it. Obviously, the negative and dangerous role which Syria has taken upon itself once again must be emphasized. I hope the world does not embrace this artificial distinction. The notion was rejected by the United Nations, and Syria will have to reconsider its role in terrorism.

[Ben-'Ami] Syria's purported support of terrorism might, to a certain extent, have driven away a move toward peace in our region. Do you not feel a certain measure of lethargy, some kind of inactivity regarding the peace process in our region? And then, there also were the Soviet statements.

[Peres] There definitely is a certain measure of lethargy, a kind of recession. There are some people in our midst who cannot tell the difference between a wedding and a funeral, and they are very joyful at the prospects of a funeral. I do not want to take part either in the death or in the funeral of peace, because peace is not a superfluous object but something we all need. In my opinion, the argument in Israel which has for the moment brought our initiative to a standstill is definitely detrimental to our interests. Peace is not a birthday present Israel is giving away to somebody else. Peace is an objective which must go side by side with our exceptional military strength. Israel is not only strong enough to defend itself, but also to defend a political peace, if it is attained.

The idea of telling the Arabs: We do not agree to an international conference—though let us not forget that we once took part in such a conference—but want direct negotiations instead; when you come to the negotiating table, however, we will definitely tell you that you will get nothing out of us—I must admit that such an invitation is not very attractive.

[Grossman] Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev will meet next week, and this meeting has aroused great emotion and expectations. How do you think this summit will affect us? Will it have any effect on the peace process in our region?

[Ben-'Ami] Will the peace process be discussed at all?

[Peres] To tell you the truth, I must say that I am of two minds on this issue. On the one hand, I am glad that the two superpowers are negotiating the reduction of nuclear warheads in the world, because this affects us as well. On the other hand, we missed an opportunity because, as I saw on the front page of *The New York Times*, Gorbachev is the darling of the United States today. From the Jewish point of view, this means that he is not in need of goodwill from all quarters. From his point of view, Gorbachev is coming to the United States under quite good conditions.

We do not want Gorbachev to be dependent on us. We have two main things in mind: First, immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union to Israel and not just the opening of the USSR's gates to emigration. Only the State of Israel can deal with the two ends of this issue, both with emigration from the Soviet Union and immigration to Israel. If others deal with it, Jews may be able to leave but they will either be unable or unwilling to come here.

The second matter is peace, of course. It is not that we are telling the Americans to beware of the Soviets. It would be ludicrous for Israelis to go to the United States and warn them against the Soviets. Is the invitation extended to Gorbachev to come to Washington not more significant than Soviet participation in an international opening which would not have the power to coerce or even take part in negotiations about peace in the Middle East? We must think logically.

[Ben-'Ami] I would like to point out something before we end this interview. I understand that the question of nuclear warheads will be discussed in the upcoming summit, and that our case will have to wait for the next Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

[Peres] I think a second summit meeting will take place in the summer, in May or June. In the period between December 1987 and the end of May 1988 the superpowers will probably deal with regional issues. Fortunately, there are enough regions and problems to keep them busy for 6 months or more, and the issue of the Middle East will presumably be raised. In any event, as far as we are concerned, the peace process should not be allowed to die out, and there should be no rejoicing in the eulogy of something which cannot and must not die.

[Grossman] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, I thank you very much.

Rabin Demands More Funds for Defense Budget

TA030711 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Dec 87 p 1

[Report by economic correspondent Avi Temkin]

[Text] Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday demanded substantial additional funds from Finance Minister Moshe Nisim for next year's defence budget, as compensation for the erosion in defence funding due to the fall in the value of the dollar, sources told *The Jerusalem Post*.

This demand could mark the end of the budgetary ceasefire between the Treasury and the Defence Ministry.

Rabin and his aides met yesterday in Jerusalem with Nisim and made their request, which Nisim rejected. Well-informed sources said no figures were mentioned by Rabin, but it was clear he was talking about large sums of money.

The sources indicated that Rabin's demands had caused some dissension within the Finance Ministry. It was clear that Nisim would refuse to give in, but there was disagreement about the implications of Rabin's move.

Some officials said it meant the agreement reached between the two ministers on the eve of the decision to scrap the Lavi, according to which no cuts in Defence Ministry funding would be requested, was now null and void. But other officials, and Nisim himself, feel they must stick to the agreement and limit their reaction to a simple refusal to increase the Defence Ministry's budget.

Rabin has reportedly complained that the Defence Ministry will have to pay 15 per cent value added tax on the additional $100m. of American foreign aid it spends in Israel. The U.S. increased the amount of American aid which the Defence Ministry may spend locally from $300 million to $400m. as part of the package designed to reduce unemployment following the decision to scrap the Lavi.

According to the sources, Rabin will ask for at least NIS30m. more. But they said the fact that no figures were quoted at yesterday's meeting with Nisim could mean that Rabin will demand an even larger sum. The defence minister has said that the falling value of the dollar has eroded not only the value of the additional $100m. to be spent domestically, but also of the $300m. which was originally allocated to purchase domestic goods and services.

In addition, there has been a large erosion in the purchasing power of $150m. worth of foreign currency allocated to the Defence Ministry from local resources. That money is used to purchase equipment in Europe, and due to the stronger currencies there, it has lost part of its value.

The sources said that if Rabin pressed for compensation on all these items, his demands could amount to between NIS70 and NIS80 million.

According to the sources, Nisim does not want a fight with Rabin, since he feels the defence minister will not press too hard for additional funding. They said the Defence Ministry still had large amounts of money which had been released by the decision to scrap the

Lavi. The alternative projects decided upon are still under study, and no money has been spent on them. This provides the Defence Ministry with a reserve large enough to absorb a reduction in the purchasing power of its dollars, they said.

AL-SHA'B Warns Against Retaliation

TA031738 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
2 Dec 87 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "Who Is Attacking the Peace Opportunities?"]

[Excerpts] Today efforts are continuing by the international community to prepare the climate for convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East. This conference is to be attended by all parties to the conflict, including the PLO and the Security Council's five permanent member states.

Today is also a time when the Arabs have taken a unified position, loudly proclaiming their desire for the establishment of a just and durable peace under the auspices of international authority.

But at the same time, there are certain signs and indications, bolstered by developments along the Israeli-Lebanese border, pointing to the possibility that Israel might momentarily embark on a retaliatory strike in response to the suicidal Palestinian operation last Wednesday against an IDF camp during which 6 soldiers were killed and 8 others wounded.

It seems that Israel's leaders, who are continuing to attack the peace opportunities and to place obstacles in the face of international efforts aimed at convening an international peace conference, are trying to exploit this operation. Their goal is to completely destroy peace under a dense cloud of imaginary pretexts and excuses. [passage omitted]

Israel, which has undergone a shock as a result of this operation, will not refrain from dealing a blow by which it will try to hit more than one target. On the one hand it aims to restore confidence and morale to the soldiers and inhabitants of the northern villages, and on the other it wants to dampen the feelings of pride being experienced in Arab capitals.

Events have proved before, however, that beating the drums of war and placing obstacles and impediments before peace opportunities cannot acheive anything except further pain, suffering, and loss.

Although Israel's leaders are capable of directing a strike at the camps in Lebanon, and inflicting pain on the inhabitants living in shelters in anticipation of an Israeli retaliatory operation, Israel cannot enjoy peace and calm as long as it insists on disturbing the serenity of others. There can be no peace as long as Israel persists on depriving people of the rights which have been recognized by all international organizations.

The lesson that Israel's leaders should draw from this operation must focus on reassessing their positions of intransigence and rejection toward peace initiatives. Instead of expanding the area of tension, inflicting more pain on the refugees in the camps, and dragging the region to the brink of disaster, one should listen to the voice of logic and deal with the peace opportunities provided by international authority. As long as Israel defies the international consensus calling for peace, the region will enjoy neither the security nor the peace aspired to by its nations.

Leniency in Glider Attack Ruling Criticized

TA031354 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
3 Dec 87 p 1

[Commentary by military correspondent Ze'ev Schiff: "Shomron's Decision—Maximum Leniency From the Point of View of the Law and of Responsibility"]

[Text] The chief of staff's decision is the most lenient possible from the point of view of military law and the responsibility of the Northern Command for what happened on the night of the hang glider attack. This was the night when six NAHAL Brigade soldiers paid with their lives for the attack of a single terrorist on a military base in the north. The chief of staff's decision limited direct responsibility for the events to the rank of brigade commander. The commander above him was reprimanded for the failure of his headquarters to attend to various aspects of early warning.

Military courts have yet to deal with the criminal responsibility of the operations officer, who bears the rank of lieutenant and who was the senior officer in the base at the time of the attack, or of the rifleman who was on guard duty and abandoned his post.

It would be a mistake to think that the chief of staff's decision terminated this sad affair. There are various questions concerning tactical issues of sealing the border and preventing surprises of different kinds. Over and beyond all this, there is the deeper question of faulty discipline and the criminal complacency constantly gnawing at the IDF.

Under question as well is the issue of conduct in the face of the enemy and under fire. Faults in these areas were detected in the Lebanon war, and they were dealt with frivolously, superficially, and indulgently. Were anyone to leaf through the remarks previously made by the commission of inquiry probing into the affair in which eight soldiers gave themselves up without fight to two terrorists, and were subsequently taken prisoner, he would find that they are applicable to the latest incident.

The chief of staff's greatest task now is to deal with these questions, which are more important than that of the Lavi fighter jet. Readying ourselves for the future battlefield is meaningless if we do not first solve these problems. What is the use of preparing for and investing in modern war tools if alertness is slack and the battle spirit is weak?! It is now the duty of the Knesset and the public to follow up on the way the chief of staff and the Northern Command deal with these issues.

Air Force Introducing Advanced Warning Systems

TA021605 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
2 Dec 87 pp A1,2

[Report by 'Imanu'el Rozen]

[Excerpt] In an interview for the Air Force's in-house publication, the commander of the antiaircraft forces, Brigadier General Eytan Yariv, said "The antiaircraft forces are equipping themselves with advanced warning systems against miniature aircraft."

The senior officer reveals further that "the antiaircraft forces are investing enormous efforts in defense of the skies and settlements of the Galilee panhandle."

"It should be recalled that the antiaircraft forces must be given advance warning in order to reach the spot and react efficiently," he emphasized. Brig Gen Yariv said that the antiaircraft lessons from the night of the gliders are taking the form of an attempt to hermetically seal the border and improve the warning systems.

"With all the existing measures that are scheduled to enter into service, we will be able to give a more suitable response even against unusual and suicidal incidents of this type," he said. [passage omitted]

Court Orders Vanunu To Answer Treason Charges

TA021650 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1430 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] The Jerusalem District Court today ordered Mordekhay Vanunu to respond to the charge of treason. The justices, Eliyahu No'am, Tzvi Tal, and Shalom Brenner, did not provide explanations for this decision. The ITIM correspondent points out that Vanunu's testimony began today in camera.

Vanunu was questioned all day by his attorney Avigdor Feldman. In his testimony, he told the court of his life history, his personal background, his education, and his military service. To repeat, his testimony was given in camera and cannot be made public.

Armed Forces Chief Returns From U.S. Visit

JN032029 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Field Marshal Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, returned home this evening after an official visit to the United States. He was received at the airport by Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib and a number of his aides, as well as the inspector general of the Armed Forces.

AL-RA'Y Views UN Vote on Terrorism

JN031243 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Dec 87 pp 1, 22

[Editorial: "Zionism: From Racism to Terrorism"]

[Text] The international community, represented by the United Nations, has condemned all acts of terrorism. The United States has abstained from supporting such condemnation, whereas Israel opposed it. The international community did not stop at condemnation but called for convening an international conference to define terrorism. In light of the vote on the draft resolution, there is no longer any need to convene such a conference because the U.S. abstention and the Israeli opposition to the condemnation are two stands that provide a real definition of terrorism.

Thus, every Israeli action will enjoy U.S. support. Such a definition can be applied to all Israeli policies without there being any contradiction between the real concept of terrorism and such policies in all their forms, methods, and objectives.

Several years ago, the international community—with a similar consensus—condemned Zionism as a racist movement. At the time Washington rejected such a condemnation and Israel opposed it because it exposed the truth about Israel and put Israel in a position opposed to mankind and to all values and principles. Israel opposed the resolution because Israel resorts to military superiority to expand the area it occupies, perpetrate massacres, and crucify the Middle East and its people, causing them suffering and bringing loss of security and stability.

The condemnation of terrorism almost complements the previous condemnation of Zionism. The international community has thus branded Zionism as racist and terrorist, Israeli rejection and U.S. abstention in the votes condemning terrorism and racism notwithstanding.

According to the international community's resolution, it becomes clear that resistance to occupation is a legitimate national action, that confrontation of the attempts to uproot a people from their homeland and distort that homeland politically, socially, culturally, and economically is a legitimate national action, and that pursuit of the enemies of the homeland and the enemies of the homeland's freedom and dignity is a popular and sovereign act.

Thus, the real concept of terrorism becomes established: occupation, actions to consolidate such occupation and turn it into a fait accompli, the killing of civilians, and the destruction of towns, villages, and refugee camps. Consequently, the Zionist entity is the center of organized state terrorism, supported and backed by those who refuse to condemn racism and terrorism, despite the fact that racism and terrorism are a flagrant transgression against human rights, democracy, freedom, and all the slogans they raise. Everyone has lost confidence in the credibility of such slogans, even those who raise them.

Israel Sends Golani Brigade to South

NC031216 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Israel has taken a new escalatory step in the south, the objectives and dimensions of which are not yet known. This step is represented in the deployment of the Golani Brigade in the eastern sector. As is known, that brigade had invaded Lebanon in 1982. According to the most recent reports from the central sector, the Israeli occupation forces have brought the aforementioned brigade into the central sector. The brigades personnel have begun building positions on the triangle extending from Al-Khiyam to Ibil al-Saqi and Maydun. [passage omitted]

Israeli Helicopter Flights Reported in South

NC041308 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Israeli helicopters continued to fly over the occupied areas in the south today. These helicopters have been flying in the skies of Al-Nabatiyah and firing hundreds of illumination rounds since last night. Meanwhile, a state of alert has been called in Palestinian and nationalist positions in anticipation of any renewed Israeli aggression.

Iranian 'Cell' Dealing With Hostages Reported

NC031254 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1145 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] According to a book entitled *"The Threat,"* or *"La Menace"* by (Pierreton), the Iranians have set up a working cell [khaliyah 'amlaniyah] in Tehran to make decisions with regard to the capture or release of hostages.

The book mentions that this cell is composed of Deputy Jalaladin Farsi, Rafiqdust, and Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, and is headed by Abu Sharif. Its decisions are submitted to Imam Khomeyni, who considers them. The instructions are then passed on to Iran's representative in Lebanon, 'Imad Mughanniyah, a Lebanese national from Tyre who is widely regarded as responsible for the taking of hostages.

9 February Claims Attacks on Syrian Forces

NC041234 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] The martyr Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for firing machineguns at patrols of the Syrian occupation forces in Al-Khannaq and Al-Saraya al-Qdimah in Tripoli last night. The group also said that it opened fire at a Syrian patrol in Al-Jisr this morning.

The 9 February Organization called on Tripoli parties to stay neutral, otherwise it warned that it would be forced to attack their centers.

Soldier Wounded by Sniper in Southern Suburb

NC032011 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] A Lebanese Army soldier was wounded at 1800 today by sniper fire on the Al-Tayyunah combat line [of Beirut's southern suburb]. Army positions on the Saqiy al-Hadath-Lycee Bellot-al-Mansharah combat line came under sniper fire this evening from gunmen in the Al-Laylakah, Hayy al-Sullum, and Sufayr areas.

Amal, Palestinian Shooting Reported

Beirut Suburb 'Tense'

NC032054 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Tension and a state of alert are currently prevailing in most areas of Beirut's southern suburb. The Amal Movement's Security Department and the supporters of 'Aql Hamiyah have reportedly set up roadblocks and there has been shooting from time to time, particularly in the Al-Murayjah area.

The situation in the southern suburb became tense following an assassination attempt on Rabi' Amhaz, an official in the Amal Movement's Security Department. He was seriously wounded, as were two of his companions.

Machinegun Fire Exchanged

NC040824 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Skirmishes involving machinegun fire began between Amal gunmen and Palestinians at approximately 0800 today. The exchanges, which are continuing sporadically, have left three people wounded. Of these, Fatima al-Shafi'i and an individual named Abu 'Ali have been identified.

Rockets Aimed at Hizballah; Amal Sites Defused

NC040826 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] According to security sources, two 107-mm rockets, which had been aimed at the Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks and an Amal office in Ba'labakk, have been dismantled. The Shaykh 'Abdallah barracks is occupied by Hizballah personnel.

Lebanese Forces Deputy Commander Interviewed

NC030945 Beirut MONDAY MORNING in English 30 Nov-6 Dec 87 pp 13-17

[Interview with Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces, by a MONDAY MORNING staff reporter; date and place not given]

[Text] [Reporter] How would you analyze the Gulf War, when it will end, and what are its future repercussions on Lebanon and the Middle East, following the growing fundamentalist movements?

[Paqraduni] The Gulf War moved from one of an international consensus on its continuation, to one of an international agreement to end it, through the UN Security Council Resolution 598, and the United States intervention to protect the Kuwiti tankers.

Internationalization of the Gulf War is the major development in the course of current regional events. It implies internalization of the Lebanese issue. From this viewpoint, the Gulf War may have two outcomes for Lebanon: (1) In case Iran wins, Lebanon will undoubtedly be transformed into a project of an Islamic Republic. (2) If Iraq wins, then the project of liberating Lebanon will continue. This is on one side. On the other side, in as much as the Gulf War is internationalized, we shall head towards an international framework to solve the Middle East crisis, and consequently the Lebanese crisis. Internationalizing the solution means extricating it from Syrian domination.

As for the impact of the war on the Middle East, Iraq, during this war, was able to halt the extension of the Iranian empire over the Middle East and the spread of the Iranian revolution to the Arab states. In other words, Iran's failure to win the war after eight years halted its ambition to become a regional superpower in the Middle East. It also stopped the thrust of the Iranian revolution in changing Arab regimes into Islamic republics. Had Iran won very quickly, revolutions would have spread over all Arab regimes, and Iran would have emerged as an empire in the region, thus creating two regional states in the Middle East: Israel on the one side, and Iran on the other side.

[Reporter] What is your viewpoint regarding the international conference for peace in the Middle East and when do you expect it to convene?

[Paqraduni] The international conference is very important and should not be doubted. We believe that the final solution to Lebanon's crisis is closely linked to the international conference to resolve the Middle East crisis. All theories which called for separating Lebanon's crisis from that of the Middle East were dropped. Thus we think that Lebanon should with the international conference, whereby Lebanon's issue will be basically and independently included in the agenda of the conference, and where Lebanon will be represented directly and independently within the conference [sentence as published]. There are attempts not to include Lebanon's issue on the conference. Other attempts are made to represent the Palestinian, the Lebanese, and the Syrians in one delegation to the conference. In this respect, I consider that Lebanon is concerned with the international conference for three reasons:

1. Lebanon has become an occupied state. It was not occupied in 1967, but is now occupied.

2. Lebanon is concerned with solving the Palestinian problem and consequently with ending the Palestinian armed presence on its territory.

3. Lebanon is concerned with removing the Iranians and Syrians from its territory.

Lebanese diplomacy used to say that Lebanon will participate in the conference in a later stage after it ends the geographic conflicts on its territory. But we believe that Lebanon should participate in this conference from the very beginning, because it is concerned with all the items proposed: the Gulf War, the Palestinian cause and the Lebanese issue.

[Reporter] Do you think that the Amman summit resolution for an independent Palestine Liberation Organization delegation in the international conference will strengthen the opportunity for Lebanon's participation as an independent state?

[Paqraduni] Definitely. Whether with or without the participation of the PLO, Lebanon should participate as an independent state.

[Reporter] What do you propose the Lebanese diplomacy should adopt in case this conference was held, or agreement was reached to hold it in order to be able to present the Lebanese cause on the same level of that of the Middle East issue?

[Paqraduni] Lebanon should boost its relations with the Soviet Union, inasmuch as they are with the United States, because the international conference is after all, a U.S.-Soviet decision. Lebanon should also boost its relations with other Arab states, calling for the convening of the international conference, foremost of which is Iraq. Thus there would be a global Arab presentation of Lebanon's issue on the agenda of the conference, and not only one restricted to Syria which aims at extricating Lebanon from the international conference in a bid to maintain it within the framework of the Syrian solutions. Lebanon should also move on the level of the permanent members of the Security Council, in order to provide those countries with the Lebanese issue, coupled with a Lebanese official request to have the Lebanese issue part of the international conference, and an independent item on its agenda. This is an important resolution that has not been notified to the international sides, either because there is a diplomatic evaluation that the issue is difficult and ruled out, or because there is a wish to reach an agreement with Syria through not internationalizing or Arabizing the Lebanese problem.

[Reporter] How do you evaluate the forthcoming summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev next month with respect to solutions of certain world issues?

[Paqraduni] On the international level an era of international accord similar to that prevalent during the Nixon-Brezhnev era which ended the Cold War and halted arms race will be witnessed. Nobody believes that the Reagan-Gorbachev summit will discuss Lebanon's issue by any means. Lebanon's topic will not be included in their agenda, and we should not fall into wrong assumptions as was the case during the Amman summit. The Washington summit is basically aimed at organizing a treaty to limit arms race between the two superpowers, as was Amman summit to discuss the Gulf War. We should not postpone the pressing decisions awaiting this summit, as we did when we waited for the meetings of Quebec, New York and Amman.

[Reporter] How do you evaluate the outcomes of Amman, and what did you expect it to produce?

[Paqraduni] The Amman summit was a moral victory for King Husayn on the Arab level, because he succeeded in gathering the Arabs five years after the Fes summit in 1982. It was also a diplomatic victory for Egypt in restoring diplomatic relations with most Arab states. It was a political victory for Iraq, whose viewpoint regarding the Gulf War was adopted. There was a limited Syrian retreat, a plan to keep Yasir 'Arafat on the sidelines, and an utter absence of Lebanon. The mistake made by Lebanese diplomacy in Amman was that it minimized the political problem and enlarged the economic problem. Thus we did not present our problem politically, and we did not reach a financial aid. In my opinion the political problem should have been enlarged, provided it might have economic results, but in order to accommodate Syria and King Husayn, President al-Jumayyil minimized the political issue and enlarged the economic one, and therefore he did not gain in politics or in economy.

[Reporter] Do you think that if the Lebanese delegation was formed in a different way, it would have had greater impact? That is if President al-Jumayyil designated Acting Premier al-Huss and a number of ministers to represent Lebanon in the summit?

[Paqraduni] Premier al-Huss would have defended Syria in Lebanon.

[Reporter] It was proposed that Minister Skaf represent Lebanon on the economic level.

[Paqraduni] Had Minister Skaf gone, nobody would have understood anything. The economic support is the result of political backing, and not vice versa. Support should be first political and then comes the economic results. This is why you should gain political support in order to be able to get financial aid.

[Reporter] Who will bear the responsibility for Lebanon's failure to gain in both the economic and the political levels?

[Paqraduni] 1) The internal opposition, which bypassed the president and doubted his representation, and consequently weakened Lebanon's position.

2) Syria, which undermined the Lebanese issue, to restrict it to itself. To please Syria, the Arab states did not give Lebanon financial aid.

[Reporter] Do you expect early presidential elections, and who is the candidate of the Lebanese Forces?

[Paqraduni] We are against early or late presidential elections. We support these elections in its due constitutional time and according to the constitutional principles. Until now, the Lebanese Forces do not have candidate, and will not have a candidate of their own. The presidential candidate will represent the whole community in all the eastern region, that is, the Lebanese Forces, the Lebanese Front and the president.

[Reporter] Will there be agreement on a single candidate?

[Paqraduni] Definitely.

[Reporter] If MP Raymond Iddih became a candidate what will be your stand?

[Paqraduni] We do not support Iddih's candidacy for two reasons:

All his stands are against us and furthermore the one who did not live with the crisis, cannot solve it. Iddih has become outside the game, and outside the real facts.

[Reporter] Do you support General Michel 'Awn?

[Paqraduni] General 'Awn is an excellent candidate supported on the internal and external levels.

[Reporter] Reports were circulated during the visit of Patriarch Sfayr to Paris about his meetings with former President Franjiyah and former Premier Salam, about the beginning of a coalition to support MP Raymond Iddih. What is your opinion?

[Paqraduni] The Maronite Patriarch won't support one Maronite candidate against another. The patriarch represents Christian unity, not Christian conflict.

[Reporter] If a Maronite personality that maintains good relations with Syria become a candidate with a great hope of success, would you support him?

[Paqraduni] We shall have our candidate and Syria will have its own, and the battle will be between our candidate and that of Syria

[Reporter] Will you repeat the experience of a partisan president?

[Paqraduni] The partisan candidate has the same rights and luck of the nonpartisan candidate. I prefer the committed candidate.

[Reporter] Minister Birri declared that if agreement was not reached on reforms there would be no presidential elections?

[Paqraduni] I accuse Birri of trying to prevent the coming presidential election in order to create a constitutional vacuum that will practically legislate the Syrian presence in Lebanon and cancel the Lebanese legitimancy in favor of the Syrian one. However, all preconditions set concerning the elections are uncovered attempts to foil this election. Nabih Birri is one of those who do not want accord nor the presidential elections to be held. The precondition set for accord is a precondition to foil the presidential election.

[Reporter] What is your viewpoint regarding the candidacy of four Moslem clerics for presidency?

[Paqraduni] Their candidacy is logical, they are harmonious with their ideological proposal for an Islamic republic. However, we are against them and against their proposals.

[Reporter] If accord among the Christians was not achieved over a single candidate, how do you explain this situation?

[Paqraduni] We are confident that accord will be reached among the major groups in the eastern region over a single candidate

[Reporter] But this contradicts the fact that former President Franjiyah is outside this accord?

[Paqraduni] Franjiyah does not represent the Christian accord; he is a Syrian hostage. Nobody doubts his Lebanese affiliation, but objectively he is under direct Syrian pressure from which he cannot come out. When we discuss Christian accord we mean the free Christian will which exists in the eastern region and which is outside the area under Syrian occupation.

[Reporter] How do you see Samir Ja'ja'? Is he a Phalangist candidate or otherwise?

[Paqraduni] Samir Ja'ja' is not a candidate until now. The dominant character he has is that of the Lebanese Forces; he represents the backbone of the Lebanese and Christian resistance.

[Reporter] Can't we consider the Lebanese Forces as representing an Israeli trend in Lebanon as you consider Franjiyah representing the Syrian trend?

[Paqraduni] Former President Franjiyah implements the Syrian policy reluctantly because he is under the Syrian occupation, while the Lebanese Forces are not under the Israeli occupation, and do not implement any Israeli design. These Forces express the independent Lebanese decision. We have proved, since January 15, 1986, the independence of our decision and our giving top priority to the national interest over any foreign interest. Those who have similar Arab relations like we have cannot implement an Israeli project. We implement our national independent decision.

[Reporter] But press reports constantly speak of continuous meetings. These reports are ridiculous.

Reports were circulated that a Lebanese Forces' official Clovis Francis, is shuttling between East Beirut and Israel to agree on a new president that will sign a peace treaty with Israel provided that the presidential election will be preceded by a new Israeli invasion?

[Paqraduni] I wonder whether all of this is the task of a single person. Clovis Francis has nothing to do with the Lebanese Forces at all.

[Reporter] Is there a conflict between you and Israel?

[Paqraduni] Viewpoints and interests contradicted over the "mountain war" and its outcomes and over east of Sidon.

[Reporter] Is it because they did not help as was agreed?

[Paqraduni] They helped the Druze and the Shi'ites.

[Reporter] The army constantly calls for opening the crossings between the two sectors of the capital. You are accused of objecting to this opening. What is your response?

[Paqraduni] The crossings are the outcome of the security and military war waged against us. The crossings are not the problem. They are the outcome of the terrorist and destructive war against our region. As long as the war continues we consider the crossings the practical response to prevent booby-trapped cars and handbags from destroying our social and economic life and to avoid shaking the confidence of the Lebanese and those abroad in our conditions.

[Reporter] Some have accused the Lebanese Forces themselves of planting these handbags, and have drawn attention to the fact that to [as published] such explosions have occurred in regions the Forces control.

[Paqraduni] This is a joke. In the past, when the handbags went off in (our regions) they said the Forces were weak and couldn't stabilize security. Today when handbags don't explode they say the Forces are planting these explosives elsewhere. In fact, this is an artificial campaign to attack the credibility of the Lebanese Forces which have become a major factor in the Lebanese equation. The strenuous efforts made to undermine our credibility indicates the strength of our position.

[Reporter] How would you describe the relations between the Forces and Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr?

[Paqraduni] The relation is good and contacts are constant with the patriarchate and the bishops.

[Reporter] What is the aim in downplaying this relationship?

[Paqraduni] It is not downplayed but it is not necessary any time we hold a meeting to make a thing of it. We consider the meeting between Samir Ja'ja' and the patriarch as routine and ordinary meeting, because we consider the patriarch the spiritual father of the Forces.

[Reporter] Where do you agree with Walid Junblatt and where do you disagree?

[Paqraduni] We cannot determine points of agreement and conflict because Junblatt is unstable in his positions. Now we disagree with him on everything; he is on one side and we are on another.

[Reporter] You fought against the Palestinians in 1975 and in 1982, and now you have friendly relations with them. How do you explain these contradictions? Does that mean that you support their return and stand with them in their fighting with the Amal Movement?

[Paqraduni] We are not in a state of utter enmity with any organization, state, or people. When the Palestine Liberation Organization interfered in our internal affairs, we resisted it until 1983. When it refrained from intervention, we approached towards it. Our sovereignty is the standard. We approach those who respect our sovereignty, and resist anyone who violates it. We distinguish between the armed Palestinian presence and the civil Palestinian presence. We were and still are against any armed Palestinian presence on Lebanese territory. At the same time, the Palestinian civil presence in Lebanon should be safeguarded and this is the responsibility of the Lebanese Army. If the Lebanese Army is not able to protect the Palestinian civil presence, then it could be assisted by the international forces. As for the war between the Amal Movement and the Palestinians, we consider it within the framework of a Palestinian-Syrian struggle, and not in the framework of a Palestinian-Shi'ite struggle. The Amal Movement does not represent all the Shi'ites, it implements a Syrian policy against the Palestinians, and not Shi'ite policy against them.

[Reporter] You always attack Syria although the Syrians are in West Beirut upon a legitimate request from Speaker al-Husayni and late Premier Karami. You call for their withdrawal from Lebanon, while they are here upon a legitimate request. Do you want street battles to return to West Beirut?

[Paqraduni] We consider Syria as we consider the Palestinians and others. When Damascus respected the Lebanese sovereignty, we cooperated with it. When Syria started interfering in our affairs, and became a party rather than a mediator, we started resisting it. We believe that the military entry of the Syrians to West Beirut was not with a legitimate request, because according to Lebanese laws this request can be made either by the president or by the council of ministers while in session. We believe that the Syrian military presence in Lebanon has become illegitimate since August 1982 when the Arab League failed to renew the mandate of the Arab Deterrent Forces. Thus their presence became illegal when the president called for the withdrawal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon in 1983, and it did not leave the country.

We consider Syria the problem in West Beirut and not the solution and the cause of battles in the western sector. The struggle between the Amal Movement, the PSP, the Palestinians, and Hizballah, is the responsibility of the Syrians, because this struggle was sectarian between Sunnites and Shi'ites. Syria has always entered regions following internal strifes. It entered Lebanon following the Palestinian-Lebanese conflict, North Lebanon following inter-Christian conflict and finally it entered Beirut after an inter-Moslem conflict and Tripoli after inter-Palestinian conflict. It is now trying to enter Sidon through the Palestinian-Sunnite conflict. Thus regardless of the advantages of Syria's entry to stop the fighting, the problem increased with this entry instead of being solved.

[Reporter] How do you prove that Syria is behind every conflict in the Moslem regions?

[Paqraduni] The conflict between the Shi'ites and the Sunnites was backed by Syria and Iran, where the Shi'ites were given preference over the Sunnites and the Amal Movement was given the command of the Sunnite street after liquidating the latter's forces like the Al-Murabitun. The Beirut Sunnites commands were displaced or terrorized, such as the Islamic Gathering. Syria is also behind the Palestinian-Shi'ite conflict. The war of the camps was waged through the Amal Movement to strike Yasir 'Arafat. Following the cancellation of the May 17 Agreement, Syria counted on the Amal Movement as the means to implement its political project in Lebanon at the expense of the Shi'ites as a traditional leadership and the Sunnites in view of their links with Egypt, Iraq and the Palestinians. It was also at the expense of the Druze for their relations with 'Arafat and Moscow. Definitely, Syria cannot invent conflicts from nothing. It can enlarge the present conflicts and can transform them into a big problem.

[Reporter] Don't you consider this as a weakness on behalf of the rulers in Lebanon?

[Paqraduni] It is true that the authority in Lebanon is weak due to the democratic rule and the 1943 formula, but Syria intended to weaken the authority in Lebanon to exhaust it. The Palestinians started obstructing the Lebanese authority through obstructing the Lebanese Army. Syria then followed this procedure, and went on to foil the political and administrative facilities through boycotting.

[Reporter] But the Army has committed terrible mistakes. Who started the battles of the mountain and the southern suburbs?

[Paqraduni] The battles of the mountain and the southern suburbs were waged in 1983, but obstructing the Lebanese Army did not take place because of the suburb and the mountain. The Palestinians started obstructing the Army since 1969 with the Cairo Agreement, and the Syrians followed on this mission since 1978 with the Al-fayyadiyah incident. Former President Sarkis devoted all his term in office to reconstruct the Army but was confronted with the Syrian policy which was based on a simple equation: either the Lebanese Army will subordinate to the Syrian Army, or there will be no Lebanese Army. This was made clear in the tripartite agreement. What happened in the suburbs and the mountain was the result of the rupture in the Army. The Lebanese Army deals with the Lebanese people very cordially in a democratic and civilized manner.

[Reporter] Premier al-Huss recently declared that his verbal resignation can be accepted by the president, and that he is acting on a temporary basis. Do you consider that President al-Jumayyil is wrong not to form a new cabinet?

[Paqraduni] I believe that the resignation does not need to be written and we agree with Huss that he is in a state of resignation and that he is in an illegal situation, because he is acting for a man deceased. We consider that President al-Jumayyil should have accepted the resignation of late Premier Rashid Karami last May, as he should also accept the resignation of al-Huss which he daily reiterates. We cannot go on with the present situation until September 23, 1988. The situation is unbearable, and we call for the formation of a new cabinet as soon as possible.

We are today facing a dilemma: a political deadlock and an economic crisis. We call for a cabinet that will administer the political crisis on a minimum level, and to manage the socio-economic crisis on the maximum level. This would resolve the existing dilemma and we would achieve political solution and an end to the economic crisis. Otherwise, no one can persist in this condition.

[Reporter] In your viewpoint, why won't the president appoint an official to form the cabinet?

[Paqraduni] Because of the Syrian pressure which prevent the Sunnite commands from accepting such an appointment. A matter which prevents President al-Jumayyil from undergoing such a thing. There is also an American advice to reconsider this issue. We are worried for what might happen until September 1988. Our plan centers on the following: the preparation for the presidential election in the summer of 1988 to avoid legitimate vacuum, the formation of a cabinet to end the economic and social deterioration, along with confronting the pressing social situation in our regions until a new cabinet is formed. The Lebanese Forces give a subvention of 300,000 dollars per month to the Social Security Institution set up, but this cannot continue. We bear our responsibility for the time being, but we request the formation of a government that will shoulder its responsibility until the end of the president's term in office.

[Reporter] The causes that are preventing the formation of a new cabinet may last until September 1988. Will this obstruct the presidential election?

[Paqraduni] No matter what the causes are, the president should form a cabinet, because legitimacy should never be lacking.

[Reporter] Then, you consider the president responsible for that?

[Paqaduni] The president does not lack the will but the ability. However, he has his own causes and accounts. I consider the formation of a cabinet with all its risks much better than abstaining from this formation in spite of the current outcomes. In other words, the absence of a new cabinet would make the dollar rate jump above 1000 Lebanese pounds leading to social collapse, while the formation of a cabinet may give an opportunity to stop this collapse.

[Reporter] What do you foresee for the future?

[Paqraduni] A cabinet in 1988, a solution in 1990, and lots of surprises and difficulties in between.

Spanish Communist Party Delegation Arrives

JN021150 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus—The Spanish Communist Party delegation led by Comrade Juan Francisco, member of the party's Executive Committee, arrived in Damascus tonight at the invitation of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command.

Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, Ba'th Party National Command reserve member, and a number of party officials received the delegation upon its arrival at Damascus International Airport.

The delegation will hold party and political talks and meetings, as well as visit major historical sites in Syria.

Talks Begin With Ba'th Party

JN021904 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Dec 87

[Text] The first round of talks was held this morning between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade Fawwaz Sayyagh, reserve member of the party's National Command, and the Spanish Communist Party delegation led by Juan Francisco, member of the arty's Executive Committee.

The two delegations reviewed relations between the two parties and ways to develop and strengthen them to promote joint struggle against imperialism, Zionism, and racism.

Comrade Sayyagh gave a briefing on the party's aims and struggle, as well as Syria's firm stand under the leadership of the party and its Secretary General Hafiz al-Asad against the Zionist and imperialist onslaught to which our Arab region is being exposed. He reviewed Syria's great achievements under the glorious Corrective Movement.

For his part, Comrade Francisco reviewed issues connected with Spain's current conditions. He stressed his party's support for Syria's struggle and praised its stand and role in facing imperialist and Zionist schemes in the region.

Afghanistan

Text of Constitution Approved at Grand Assembly

LD031552 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1630 GMT 2 Dec 87

["Text" of the Republic of Afghanistan Constitution approved at the Grand Assembly on 30 November; read by announcer]

[Text] The Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan

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In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful:

Our beloved homeland, Afghanistan, has a proud history replete with the heroic struggle of our brave people for freedom, independence, national sovereignty, democracy, and social progress. The changes that have taken place in our country in the course of recent years have provided favorable conditions for achieving high objectives, for the progress of the homeland and the prosperity of the people.

[Words indistinct] PDPA as the formulator of [word indistinct] of the policy of national reconciliation, together with other political, national and democratic forces who are actively carrying ahead the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation:

Based on these principles and in order to:

—Consolidate independence and national sovereignty and defend the territorial integrity of the country;

—Achieve and strengthen reconciliation and national unity, keeping in mind the objective realities, traditions, and customs of the people;

—Ensure social justice and equality;

—Develop the national economy and the living standards of the people;

—Raise the role and authority of our beloved homeland, Afghanistan, in the international arena;

We, the people of Afghanistan, perceiving the historic changes that are taking place both in the country and in the contemporary world, pursuing the tenets of the sacred religion of Islam, preserving and enriching the heritage of the constitutionalist movement in Afghanistan, and paying respect to the United Nations Charter and to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, endorse this Constitution as the most important national document.

Chapter I.

Foundation of the State's Political System

Article 1. The Republic of Afghanistan is an independent, unitary, and indivisible state, having sovereignty over the whole of its territory. National sovereignty in Afghanistan belongs to the people. The people (?impose) national sovereignty through the Grand Assembly National Council and local councils.

Article 2. The sacred religion of Islam is the religion of Afghanistan. No law in the Republic of Afghanistan may be contrary to the tenets of the sacred religion of Islam and other values enshrined in this Constitution.

Article 3. The Republic of Afghanistan is a nonaligned country. It does not participate in military pacts and does not allow the establishment of foreign bases on its territory.

Article 4. The defense of independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity is among the fundamental tasks of the state. The state maintains the security and defense capability of the country and equips the armed forces.

Article 5. The formation of political parties in Afghanistan is allowed provided their charter, aims, and activity are not contrary to the articles of the Constitution and the laws of the country. A party which is formed in accordance with the provisions of the law cannot be dissolved without legal reasons.

Article 6. The National Front of Afghanistan, as the most extensive sociopolitical organization, unites political parties and individual members included in its ranks for their active participation in political, state, and social spheres, on the basis of a common program.

Article 7. Social organizations are permitted to be formed in Afghanistan according to the law. The state assists in upgrading the role of trade unins, peasant cooperatives, youth and women's organizations, and other social organizations in all the political, economic, social, and cultural life of the country. It ensures that there will be cooperation and mutual relations between them and state organs.

Article 8. Pashto and Dari are the official national languages of Afghanistan.

Article 9. The insignia of the DRA consists of a rising sun, adytum, and pulpit with a green background, encased in two sheaves of wheat, and with a tricolor ribbon in black, red, and green.

Article 10. The state flag of the Republic of Afghanistan is tricolor in the form of black, red, and green stripes divided into three horizontal equal parts from top to bottom. The insignia will be located in the upper quarter on both faces of the flag close to the mast. The length of the flag is double its width.

Article 11. The capital of the Republic of Afghanistan is Kabul City.

Article 12. The national anthem of the Republic of Afghanistan shall be approved by the National Assembly.

Chapter II.

Article 13. The Republic of Afghanistan is a multinational country. The state shall follow a policy of all-round growth in understanding, friendship, and cooperation between all nationalities, clans, and tribes of the country in order to ensure political, economic, social and cultural equality, and the rapid growth and development of regions which are socially and economically backward. The state shall gradually provide for the creation of administrative units based on national characteristics.

Article 14. The state shall adopt measures necessary for the growth of the culture, language, and literature of the people of Afghanistan, and shall preserve and develop the valuable and worthy cultural, traditional, linguistic, literary, and folkloric legacy of all nationalities, clans, and tribes.

Article 15. In the Republic of Afghanistan, the family constitutes the basic unit of society. The state shall adopt necessary measures for ensuring the health of mother and child and for the upbringing of children. [passage indistinct]

Article 19. In the Republic of Afghanistan, property exists in the forms of state, cooperative, mixed, private, personal, and trusts, as well as the property of political and social organizations. The state shall protect and defend all forms of legal properties.

Article 20. Underground resources, forests, grazing land, and other natural wealth; fundamental energy resources; historic relics; banks and insurance institutions; means of communications and radio and television establishments; large dams, ports, the primary means of production in heavy industry; transport routes and air transport are among state property. The state shall strengthen and develop the state sector of the economy.

Article 21. The state shall assist in the expansion and consolidation of cooperatives and encourage the voluntary participation of the people in them.

Article 22. The state encourages and protects the activity of individual craftsmen and their voluntary participation in trade unions and cooperatives. The state renders all-round assistance for upgrading professional skill, ensuring a supply of raw materials, and the sale of their output.

Article 23. The state guarantees the right of ownership for peasants and other landowners on land in accordance with the law. The state shall adopt necessary measures for the implementation of democratic changes in agriculture, keeping in view the interests of toiling peasants and other landowners. The state encourages the establishment of large agricultural and mechanized estates, mixed and private farms, and helps in the reclamation of virgin lands.

Article 24. The state guarantees by law opportunities for the use of pastures by nomads and livestock breeders. The state renders assistance in the creation of proper conditions for the growth of animal husbandry, the sale of products, and the improvement of the economic, social, and living standards of livestock breeders.

Article 25. The state shall guarantee the security of private investment for the growth of the national economy and shall protect and encourage the participation of national capital-holders in the development of industrial, commercial, construction, transportation , agricultural, and services spheres in accordance with the law. The state expands all-round and beneficial relations with private entrepreneurs and protects the private sector vis-a-vis competition with foreign capital. The state takes into account the interests of the private sector in detailing the financial, credit, customs, and pricing policy, according to the law.

Article 26. In the Republic of Afghanistan, domestic and foreign trade is directed and regulated by the state, observing the people's interests. To this end, the state encourages the activity of national capital holders in the expansion of exports and imports of goods and the development of wholesale and retail trade. It also undertakes to fix and control prices. The state encourages the augmentation of production and raising the quality of export goods, and protects them vis-a-vis the competition of capital and foreign monopolies.

Article 27. For the growth of the national economy, the state permits foreign investment in the Republic of Afghanistan and regulates it in accordance with the law.

Article 28. In the Republic of Afghanistan, foreign citizens shall not have the right to own immovable property. [passage indistinct]

Article 29. The right of property inheritance is guaranteed in accordance with Islamic Shari'ah law.

Article 30. Expropriation is allowed only for the purpose of securing public interests against prior and equitable compensation, in accordance with the law. The confiscation of property is not permitted without the sanction of the law and the decision of a competent court.

Article 31. In the Republic of Afghanistan, the criteria, rates, and types of taxes and duties shall be determined by law, based on the principles of social justice.

Article 32. The state shall adopt and implement measures necessary to protect nature and natural wealth, to reasonably utilize natural resources, to improve the living environment, to prevent the pollution of water and air, and to preserve the survival of animals and plants.

Chapter III.

Citizenship, Rights, Basic Freedoms, and the Duties of Citizens

Article 33. Citizenship in the Republic of Afghanistan is equal and uniform to all citizens. The attainment and cancellation of citizenship and other matters pertaining to it will be regulated by law. Every person who has citizenship of the Republic of Afghanistan in accordance with the law will be called an Afghan.

Article 34. No citizen of the Republic of Afghanistan is to be exiled inside or outside the country.

Article 35. No citizen of the Republic of Afghanistan is to be extradited to a foreign state.

Article 36. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan living abroad enjoy the protection of the state. The state defends their rights and legal interests, strengthens the relations of Afghans living abroad with the country, and assists their return to the homeland.

Article 37. The Republic of Afghanistan guarantees, according to the law, the rights and freedoms of foreign citizens and individuals residing in Afghanistan without citizenship. They are bound to observe the laws of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Article 38. All citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan have equal rights and duties before the law, irrespective of their national, racial, linguistic, tribal, educational or social status, their sex, political beliefs, religion, creed, occupation, kinship, wealth or place of residence. The granting of any illegal privileges or or any discrimination against rights and duties of citizens is not permitted.

Article 39. Life is the natural right of every human being. No one is to be deprived of this right unless it is in accordance with the law.

Article 40. In the Republic of Afghanistan, the freedom of religious rites is guaranteed to all Muslims. Followers of other religions are fully entitled to perform their religious rites. No citizen has the right to use religion for antinational or antipeople propaganda purposes, for the creation of enmity, or to commission other deeds contrary to the interests of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Article 41. Liberty is the natural right of human beings. This right is unlimited unless it harms the freedom of others or public interests as defined by law. Liberty and human dignity are inviolable and the state respects and protects them. Guiltlessness is innate and the accused is considered innocent unless found guilty by a final verdict of a court of law. No act is considered a crime except as prescribed by law. No one shall be accused of a crime unless in accordance with the provisions of the law. No one can be arrested or detained except in accordance with the law. No one can be punished except by court order or according to the provisions of the law. The guilty will be punished in accordance with the law in proportion to the crime committed. Crime is a personal deed. No other person will be punished for its commission. The accused has the right to defend himself personally or through an attorney.

Article 42. In the Republic of Afghanistan punishment incompatible with human dignity, as well as torture and harassment, is prohibited. Obtaining confessions, evidence, or statements from an accused or from any other person by compulsion or threat is not permissible. [passage indistinct]

Article 43. Indebtedness of a person cannot cause the deprivation of one's liberty. The ways and means of recovering debts is to be regulated by the law.

Article 44. In the Republic of Afghanistan the inviolability of residence is guaranteed. No one, including a state representative, can enter or search a residence without the permission of the resident, and except in the circumstances and procedures specified by the law.

Article 45. In the Republic of Afghanistan secrecy of correspondence, telephone conversations, telegrams, and other kinds of communications is guaranteed. No one, including a state representative, can intercept telephone calls, telegraphic communications and other types of communication, except as provided for under the law.

Article 46. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan who, while performing their duties, suffer unlawful damage by state organs, social organizations, and responsible officials will be entitled to compensation. The conditions and procedures for compensation will be regulated by law.

Article 47. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan are entitled to take part in the sociopolitical life and administration of the country, directly or through their representatives.

Article 48. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan have the right to vote or to be elected. Conditions and procedures for exercising this right will be regulated by law.

Article 49. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan enjoy the right to freedom of thought and expression. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan can exercise this right openly, verbally, and in writing, in accordance with provisions of the law. Press censorship prior to publication is not permissible.

Article 50. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan have the right to peaceful assembly, strikes, and demonstrations in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 51. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan enjoy the right to petition, criticism, and individual or collective suggestions. State organs, social organizations, and responsible officials are bound to consider all petitions, criticisms, and proposals within the time prescribed by law and to take the necessary actions with regard to them. [passage indistinct]

Article 52. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan enjoy the right to work with equal pay. The state, through enactment and application of just and progressive laws on labor, creates the necessary conditions for citizens to exercise this right.

Article 53. Imposition of forced labor is forbidden. The performance of forced labor in times of war, natural calamity and other states of emergency that threaten public life and order will be excluded from this.

Article 54. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan, in keeping in view the needs of society and on the basis of specialization, have the right to choose their occupations and to be admitted to state employment.

Article 55. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan will have the right to rest. The state defines the working time and periodical holidays with pay, and the procedure for work during holidays, festivals, and the 'Id's [Muslim feast days], and provides conditions for rest, the growth of cultural and artistic establishments, and physical training, sports, and healthy recreation.

Article 56. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan will have the right to free education. The state will adopt the necessary measures for the eradication of illiteracy, the generalization of balanced education and education in the mother tongue, the ensurance of compulsory elementary education, the gradual expansion of general technical and vocational education, and the growth of higher education for the training of national cadres. Foreigners in the Republic of Afghanistan are permitted to establish schools in accordance with the law. Only foreigners can use these schools.

Article 57. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan have the right to health and social security. The state will adopt the necessary measures through the expansion of comprehensive, balanced, and national medical services; the expansion of hospitals and health centers; the training of doctors and medical personnel; the prevention of epidemic diseases; the expansion of free health services; the arrangement and encouragement of private medical services; and the improvement of material welfare for the elderly, those handicapped in war or at work; and the families of martyrs of the revolution.

Article 58. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan enjoy the right to scientific, technical, and artistic activities. The state ensures the systematic progress of science and the training of scientific cadres; preserves the rights of authors and inventors; encourages and protects scientific research in all spheres; and generalizes the effective use of the outcome of scientific research.

Article 59. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan have the right to travel and free choice of where to settle and reside in the country. The state is authorized to temporarily ban travel, settlements, and residences in some areas of the country for the purposes of preserving security and public order, preventing epidemic diseases, and preserving the rights and liberties of other people.

Article 60. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan enjoy the right to travel abroad and to return home.

Article 61. Every citizen of the Republic of Afghanistan is bound to observe the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Afghanistan. Ignorance of the provisions of the law is no excuse.

Article 62. Citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan and foreigners are bound to pay taxes and duties to the state in accordance with the provisions of the law.

Article 63. The defense of the homeland and the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country is the proud duty of the citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan. Conditions for service in the ranks of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan will be regulated by the provisions of the law.

Article 64. The state will provide the necessary conditions for citizens to exercise their fundamental rights and liberties, and to execute their duties. No one has the right to exercise the rights and liberties enshrined in the law against the public interest or to the detriment of the rights and liberties of other citizens.

Chapter IV.

The Grand Assembly

Article 65. The Grand Assembly, in accordance with national historic traditions, is the highest manifestation of the will of the people of Afghanistan.

Article 66. The Grand Assembly consists of:

1. Members of the National Assembly.
2. Ten representatives elected by the people from each province in representative units.
3. Governors and the mayor of Kabul.
4. The chairman, vice chairmen, and members of the Council of Ministers.
5. The chief justice, deputies, and members of the Supreme Court.
6. The attorney general and deputies of the attorney general.
7. The chairman and members of the Constitution Council.
8. Members of the Executive Board of the National Front.
9. A minimum of 50 outstanding political, scientific, social and religious figures, who will be appointed by the president under recommendation of the Secretariat of the National Front.

Article 67. The Grand Assembly enjoys the following powers:

1. The approval, amendment, and interpretation of the Constitution.
2. The election of the president and the approval of the president's resignation.
3. The approval of the declaration of war and a truce.
4. The adoption of decisions and the most important questions regarding the national destiny of the country.

Article 68. Except in cases defined otherwise in this Constitution, the Grand Assembly will be convened and opened by the president, and its sessions will be held under the chairmanship of the president or any other person appointed by the president as his deputy. A quorum of the Grand Assembly is formed by two thirds of all its members. The decisions of the Grand Assembly, except in cases otherwise defined in the Constitution, will be adopted by a majority vote of the members present.

Article 69. In the event the House of Representatives is dissolved, its members will preserve their membership in the Grand Assembly until the election of a new House of Representatives.

Article 70. The election of the Grand Assembly is organized by the Grand Assembly itself in accordance with its laws and policy.

Article 71. The president is the head of state and (?disposes) his authority and his executive, legislative and judiciary areas in accordance with this Constitution and articles of the laws of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Chapter V.

The President

Article 72. The president shall be elected by a majority of votes of members of the Grand Assembly for a term of 7 years. A person cannot be elected as president for more than two terms. The president is responsible before the Grand Assembly, and is duty bound to present a report. In order to elect a new president, the Grand Assembly will convene within a period of 30 days before the end of the term of responsibility of the president.

Article 73. Every Muslim citizen of the Republic of Afghanistan over the age of 40, either a man or his spouse born of Afghan parents and enjoying civil and poltiical rights can be elected as president.

Article 74. After being elected, the president takes the following oath in the Grand Assembly: I swear in the name of God, the almighty, to protect the principles of the sacred religion of Islam; to observe the principles of the Constitution and supervize its implementation; to safeguard the independence, national soveriegnty, and territorial integrity of Afghanistan; to preserve the basic rights and freedoms of the citizens; and to apply all my efforts to ensure social justice, people's prosperity, and the strengthening of peace and progress of the country.

Article 75. The president, in addition to other powers prescribed in this Constitution, enjoys the following powers:

1. Supreme command of the Armed Forces.
2. Approves the laws and resolutions of the National Council.
3. Instructs the prime minister to form a government.
4. Approves the head and members of government after receiving a vote of confidence from the National Assembly, and also accepts their resignations.
5. Convenes and chairs the Council of Ministers, when so required.
6. Approves the appointment, promotion, and pensions of judges, high-ranking officials, and officers of the Armed Forces according to the provisions of the law.
7. Decides on the outcome of public debates or referendums on major political, social, or economic issues.
8. Issues pardons and remits sentences.
9. Appoints the heads of diplomatic representations of the Republic of Afghanistan to foreign countries and international organizations.
10. Receives the credentials of the heads of diplomatic

missions of foreign states to the Republic of Afghanistan.

11. Declares emergency situations and partial or general mobilization and also declares the end to these situations.
12. Declares war or a truce with the agreement of the Grand Assembly. 13.

Permits the printing of currency.

14.

Grants citizenship and asylum according to the law.

15.

Awards medals, decorations, and honorary titles according to the law.

16.

Fulfills other powers according to the law.

Article 76. The president will continue his duties until the end of the term of his responsibility, except in cases of long or incurable illness, or resignation. Under conditions in which the president will not be able to fulfill his duties, these duties will be carried out by the first vice president. In a case of the permanent loss of the ability to work, of death, or resignation of the president, the Grand Assembly will be invited by the first vice president to elect a new president within 1 month. In the event of the president must resign, a president will submit his resignation directly to the Grand Assembly.

Chapter VI.

The National Assembly

Article 77. The National Assembly is the highest organ of legislative and state power of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Article 78. The National Assembly is composed of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Article 79. Deputies to the House of Representatives will be elected through constituencies, based on the number of the population, for a legislative term of 5 years.

Senators, will be elected and appointed as follows:
1. Two persons from every province and units equivalent to it for a period of 5 years.
2. Two persons from members of each provincial council or its equivalent, for a period of 3 years, by election by the relevant council.
3. The remaining one-third of the members will be appointed for a period of 4 years by the president from among learned, scholarly, and credible individuals and national personalities.

Article 80. The number, conditions, and procedures for election and appointment to the National Assembly will be regulated by law.

Article 81. In addition to powers prescribed in this Constitution, the National Assembly will also enjoy the following powers:
1. Approval, amendment, and nullification of laws and decrees and their presentation to the president for approval.
2. Interpretation of laws.
3. Ratification and annulment of international treaties.
4. Approval of socioeconomic development plans and endorsement of the government's report on their performance.
5. Approval of the state budget and assessment of the report on its performance.
6. Establishment of administrative units and their changes.
7. Formation and abolition of ministries and their equivalent central bodies.
8. Making decisions on the appointment or removal of a vice president on the basis of a president's introduction and demand.
9. Granting permission for the state to accept credit, and granting privileges of substantial importance to the national economy, including granting a monopoly.
10. Determining medals, decorations and honorary titles by law.
11. Establishing relations with foreign countries and international organizations.
12. Listening to replies of a prime minister and government members on the accomplishments made within the government's power during a session.

Article 82. The House of Representatives enjoys the following special power:
1. Making a decision on giving a vote of confidence or denying a vote of confidence to the Council of Ministers or one of its members.
2. Making a final decision on the draft of the socioeconomic development plan and state budget in the case of disagreement between the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Article 83. Each house of the National Assembly elects at its first session a Credentials Commission from among its members to assess credentials. The commission reports the results of assessment to the relevant House. The house, on the basis of this report, will confirm the power of deputies, and in the case of a breach of the Election Law, will make their credentials invalid.

Article 84. At its first session the House of Representative selects from among its deputies an administrative body comprising the chairman, two deputy chairmen, and two secretaries for its whole period to tenure. The Senate elects from among its members an administrative body comprising the chairman for a period of 5 years, and two deputy chairmen and two secretaries for a period of 1 year. The chairmen of each house of the

National Assembly conduct debates in the house and are responsible for the maintenance of order in the house. In the absence of the chairman, one of the deputy chairmen will discharge his duties.

Article 85. The ordinary sessions of the National Assembly are held twice a year, in the week beginning 20 February. The term of a normal session of the National Assembly is 3 months. If a National Assembly session discusses the annual budget or the development plan, the National Assembly session will not end before the beginning of new fiscal year. The previous year's budget will apply until the approval of the new budget. An extraordinary session of the two houses of the National Assembly can be held by a decision of the president, by demand of either chairmen of the two houses, or by request of one-fifth of the members of each house.

Article 86. The two houses of the National Assembly can hold separate or joint sessions. The joint sessions of the National Assembly will be led in turn by their chairmen. The president will open and conclude National Assembly sessions. The first session of the National Assembly will be summoned by the president within 30 days of the elections to the House of Representatives of the National Assembly are held.

Article 87. A quorum for each house of the National Assembly is formed with the presence of two-thirds of its members. Decisions of each house are passed by a majority vote of its total membership.

Article 88. The separate and joint sessions of the National Assembly will be open unless the house decides to hold a closed session. The process of discussions of both houses will be recorded.

Article 89. Both houses of the National Assembly will elect permanent commissions from among their members for the preliminary consideration and preparation of issues within the framework of the responsibility of each house, and to observe the implementation of the laws and decisions of each house.

Article 90. Both houses of the National Assembly will, if necessary, form enquiry, auditing, and other temporary commissions. The duties and responsibilities of the investigation and auditing commissions will be organized by each of the two houses of the National Assembly.

Article 91. Members of the House of Representatives have the right to question the prime minister or each member of government during a session. Replies to questions can be presented in written or in verbal term. The House of Representatives can assess the issue of a vote of no confidence in a government based on the given reply. A government which loses a confidence vote can continue in office until a new government is formed.

Article 92. Members of the Council of Ministers with a consultative vote may attend meetings of the houses of the National Assembly.

Article 93. Members of the National Assembly have the right to express their views at separate and joint sessions. No member of the National Assembly shall be subjected to criminal prosecution because of a vote or views expressed inside or outside an assembly session. Except in cases of self-evident crimes, no member of the National Assembly shall be arrested, detained, or subjected to legal prosecution without the agreement of the house concerned, or without the agreement of its administrative group during the interval between two sessions of the National Assembly. If a member of the National Assembly is arrested following a self-evident crime, the administrative group of the concerned house must be informed.

Article 94. The following authorities enjoy the right to propose, amend, or abolish laws in each of the houses of the National Assembly:

1. The president.
2. Permenent commissions of both houses of the National Assembly.
3. At least one-tenth of the membership of each house.
4. The Council of Ministers.
5. The Supreme Court.
6. The Attorney General's office.
7. The executive body of the National Front.
8. The Council of Ulema and religious leaders.

Article 95. In the cases which have otherwise been prescribed in this Constitution, the decisions by one house on the powers mentioned in Article 81 will be sent to the other house. In order to reach an agreement in cases when approval by one house is rejected by the other house, a joint delegation will be created with an equal number of members from both houses. An agreed decision by the joint delegation will be considered valid after approval by the president. If the joint delegation does not reach agreement, the matter will be discussed at a joint session of the National Assembly and a decision will be made by a majority vote of the members.

Article 96. The decisions of the National Assembly are valid after being signed by the president. If the president does not agree with the decisions of the National Assembly, he can return the motion to the National Assembly within 30 days from the date of its presentation after giving his reasons. After a period of 30 days the National Assembly can approve it again at its next session with a two-thirds vote of its members. This decisions is considered valid, and the president will sign it.

Article 97. The president, after consultation with the chairmen of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the chairman of the Council of Ministers, and the attorney general, can declare the dissolution of the House of Representatives by giving his reasons. New elections will be held within 30 days after the dissolution of the House of Representatives. The dissolution of the new House of Representatives can not take place before 1 year after the new elections. The House of Representatives can not be dissolved during the last 6 months of the president being in office.

Article 98. The laws and resolutions of the National Assembly will be published in the Pashto and Dari languages, and can also be published in the languages of other nationalities of the country.

Article 99. The rules of procedure of the National Assembly and its permanent commissions will be organized by the National Assembly.

Chapter VII.

Council of Ministers

Article 100. The Council of Ministers is the highest exexcutive and administrative organ of state power in the Republic of Afghanistan. The Council of Ministers is composed of a prime minister, deputy prime ministers, ministers, and heads of central organs equivalent to ministries.

Article 101. The prime minister designate shall present and produce to the House of Representatives, in the first session of the legislative term, the domestic and foreign policies and the composition of the government in order to obtain a vote of confidence. The prime minister, after receiving a vote of confidence and the approval of the president, will present and introduce the domestic and foreign policies and the members of the government to the Senate.

Article 102. The Council of Ministers is responsible to the National Assembly and to the president, and is duty bound to present a report.

Article 103. The Council of Ministers enjoys the following duties and authorities:

1. Formulating and implementing domestic and foreign policy.
2. Ensuring the accomplishments of the tasks of the national economy, the drafting of socioeconomic development plans, drafting the state budget, implementing the plans and budget, and presenting a report on their fulfillment to the National Assembly.
3. Taking measures in order to defend state interests, protect all types of legal [word indistinct], ensure public order and security, and [words indistinct].
4. [Words indistinct], establishing diplomatic relations and signing treaties with foreign states and international organizations in accordance with the law.
5. Creating departments and organs attached to the Council of Ministers.
6. Other powers according to the law.

The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan, within the framework of its power, approves regulations, charters, and other legislative documents.

Article 104. During a National Assembly holiday and/or the dissolution of the House of Representatives, the Council of Ministers, in the case of urgent need, can issue legislative decrees on issues which are included within the power of the National Assembly, except issues related to budget and financial affairs. The legislative decrees will be considered valid after being signed by the president. In the first session of the National Assembly the Council of Ministers will present for approval the legislative decrees which have been issued in accordance with this article of the Constitution. If the National Assembly rejects the legislative decrees, they become invalid from the date of the National Assembly decision. The president, in the interval between two National Assembly sessions or during the dissolution of the House of Representatives, can, in accordance with a proposal of the prime minister, release a number of government members and/or appoint new members. This issue will be presented for a decision at the first session of the House of Representatives.

Article 105. The Council of Ministers term of power will end with the conclusion of the legislative term. The goverment whose term has ended will continue its duties until the formation of a new Council of Ministers.

Article 106. The structure, composition, and procedures of the Council of Ministers' activities are regulated by law.

Chapter VIII.

The Judiciary

Article 107. The judiciary is an independent organ of the state.

Article 108. Judgment in the Republic of Afghanistan is carried out by courts of law in accordance with the provisions of the law. The courts in the Republic of Afghanistan are: the Supreme Court, provincial courts, divisional courts, subdistricts courts, city courts, ward courts, and the courts of the Armed Forces. The state may set up specialized courts within a unified system of the judiciary.

Article 109. The Supreme Court, as the highest judicial organ, heads the unified system of the judiciary in the country and is composed of the chief justice, deputies of the chief justice and members of the Supreme Court. In accordance with the provisions of law, the Supreme Court shall supervise the activities of the courts and ensure the uniform application of laws by all courts.

Article 110. The chief justice, deputy chief justices and members of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the president for a 6-year period. The Supreme Court reports about its activities to the president, and is responsible to him.

Article 111. The judges shall be independent in their judicial practices and shall only yield to the law. The courts shall consider the cases and render judgments thereon, based on the principle of equality of the parties to a case, before the law and the court.

Article 112. The judges shall apply the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Afghanistan in the cases under their consideration. Wherever no explicit provision exists in the law, the court shall, following the provisions of the Shari'ah of Islam, render a decision that secures justice in the best possible way.

Article 113. Trials shall be held openly in the courts. The circumstances under which a case is considered in a closed trial, are determined by the law. The judgment of the court shall be openly delivered in all circumstances.

Article 114. The consideration and judgment by the courts shall be conducted in the Pashto and Dari languages or in the language of the majority of the residents of the place. If one party to the case does not understand the language in which the proceedings are conducted, he is guaranteed the right to become acquainted with the materials and documents of the case through an authentic interpreter, and the right to speak in the mother tongue in the court.

Article 115. The decisions of the courts must contain the statement of their reasons. The enforcement of the final verdict of the courts is obligatory, except in the case of a death sentence, wherein the execution of the judgment shall be subject to endorsement by the president.

Article 116. The structure, composition, jurisdiction and method of the activity of courts shall be regulated by the law.

Chapter IX.

Public prosecutor

Article 117. The public prosecutor's office of the Republic of Afghanistan is a unified system based on the principle of centralism and is composed of: the attorney general, attorneys of provinces, divisions, districts, subdistricts, cities, precincts, and attorney of the Armed Forces. The state can set up a special attorney's office within the unified attorney system.

Article 118. The attorney general shall lead the activities of the country's attorneys. Attorneys are independent in the performance of their duties and are subject only to the law and the attorney general.

Article 119. The attorney general is appointed by the president for a 6-year period. The attorney general is responsible to, and is bound to report on his activities to, the president.

Article 120. Supervision over the imlementation and uniform observance of the law by ministers and other central organs of state administration, executive committees of local councils, state, mixed and private institutions, departments, political parties, social organizations, officials in charge, and citizens, shall be undertaken by the attorney general and attorneys subordinate to him.

Article 121. The structure, composition, authority, and procedures of public prosecution shall be regulated by the law.

Chapter X.

The Constitution Council

Aarticle 122. The Constitution Council of the Republic of Afghanistan is established to oversee that laws, legislative documents, and international treaties conform with the Constitution.

Article 123. The Constitution Council has the following authority:

1. To assess the conformity of laws, legislative decrees, and international treaties with regard to the Constitution.
2. To give the president legal and judiciary advice about the problems emanating from the Constitution.

Article 124. The Constitution Council, in implementing its authority, has the right to:

1. Study and give its views about the conformity of legislative documents, which are to be approved by the president, with regard to the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan.
2. Present to the president the fulfillment of specific measures concerning the development of legislation as prescribed by the Constitution.

Article 125. The Constitution Council consists of a president and eight members, who are appointed by the president for an 8-year term.

Article 126. The Constitution Council is responsible to the president and should report to him.

Article 127. The formation of the Constitution Council and its work procedures are prescribed by law.

Chapter XI.

Local Councils

Article 128. The Republic of Afghanistan is divided, from the viewpoint of local administration, into provinces, major districts, districts, subdistricts, cities, and wards.

The organs of state power in the administrative units are local councils. The executive bodies of the local councils are executive committees elected by the local councils as the representatives of the people. The executive committees of local councils are respectively led by governors of provinces, heads of divisions, disctrict commissioners, subdistrict administrators, mayors, and heads of wards.

Article 129. Local organs of state power and administration will deal with all matters related to local government, keeping in view the public interest. All institutions, organizations, and related local departments are duty bound to implement the decisions of local councils and their executive committees.

Article 130. The term of office for local councils is 3 years.

Article 131. The structure, duties, powers, election, and operational procedures of local councils are regulated by law.

Chapter XII.

Foreign Policy

Article 132. The foreign policy of the Republic of Afghanistan rests on ensuring the national interests, consolidation of independence and national sovereignty, territorial integrity of the country, preservation of peace and world security, peaceful coexistence, equality of rights and all-round development of international cooperation.

Article 133. The Republic of Afghanistan respects and observes the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and other accepted principles and norms of international law.

Article 134. The Republic of Afghanistan pursues the policy of nonalignment as a significant principle of the state's foreign policy and, as one of the founders of the Nonaligned Movement, strives for achieving its objectives.

Article 135. The Republic of Afghanistan is in favor of establishing friendly relations with all countries, irrespective of their socio-political and economic systems, based on the principles of equal right, mutual respect for independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, noninterference in other's internal affairs, nonresort to force or the threat of use of force, denunciation of all forms of interference and aggression, and sincere fulfillment of international commitments in accordance with the accepted principles and norms of international law.

Article 136. The Republic of Afghanistan supports the struggle of the peoples and nations for peace, national independence, democracy, social progress and the right of nations to self-determination, and fights against colonialism, neocolonialism, imperialism, Zionism, racism, apartheid and fascism.

Article 137. The Republic of Afghanistan supports the struggle for total disarmament, the cessation of the arms race on the earth and in space, nonproliferation and the elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons and other kinds of mass destructive weapons, the dismantling of foreign military bases, the relaxation of international tensions, and establishing a new and just international economic and information order.

Article 138. War propaganda is forbidden in the Republic of Afghanistan.

Chapter XIII.

Miscellaneous

Article 139. The Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan enjoys the highest legal credibility. Laws and other legislative documents shall be regulated on its foundation and in conformity with it.

Article 140. The state and all its organs shall function on the basis of this Constitution and the laws of the Republic of Afghanistan and ensure legal order, the interests of society, and the rights and legal interests of the citizens. State, cooperative, mixed and private institutions, parties, social organizations, and officials in charge are obliged to observe the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Article 141. An amendment to the Constitution is directly rendered by the Grand Assembly. Similarly, a decision on amending the Constitution is made by the president, or by the proposal of one-third of the members of the National Assembly and its approval by two-thirds of its members. In this case the president will convene the Grand Assembly. If the Grand Assembly considers the amendment necessary it will amend it. Otherwise it will turn down the proposed amendment. Amendment to the Constitution is forbidden in a state of emergency.

Article 142. The salaries of the president, vice presidents, members of the National Assembly, the prime minister, members of government, the chief justice, judges of the Supreme Court, members of the Constitution Council, the attorney general, and his assistants are regulated according to the law.

Article 143. Whenever the preservation of independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and internal security become impossible through the channels provided for in this Constitution due to war, the danger of war, disturbances, or similar conditions, a state of emergency may be proclaimed by the president. Should a state of emergency continue for more than 3 months, the consent of the Grand Assembly is imperative for its extension.

Article 144. The president has the following powers in a state of emergency:

2.The delegation of some powers of the National Assembly to the Council of Ministers.3.The partial transfer of power of the courts of law to military and special courts.

4.The suspension of extension of Articles 30, 44, 45, 46, 49, 50, the final paragraph of Article 51, and Articles 135 and 60 of the Constitution.5.To exercise other authority in accordance with the law.

Article 145. If international treaties or conventions which the Republic of Afghanistan has made or has joined contradict the provisions of the laws of the Republic of Afghanistan, international treaties will be given preference.

Article 146. With the imposition of the Constitution and the election of the president, the Revolutionary Council Presidium is rendered defunct. The Revolutionary Council will continue to discharge its duties in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VI of the Constitution until the National Assembly is formed. The National Assembly will be formed 6 months from now in accordance with the Constitution. The Council of Ministers will continue to discharge its duties in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VII of the Constitution until the formation of a new government, which will obtain a vote of confidence from the National Assembly in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. The president, 6 months after the endorsement of the Constitution, will reorganize the organs of the judiciary and public prosecution into a unitary system in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, and will establish the Constitution Council.

Article 147. The first president will be elected by the Grand Assembly, which endorses this Constitution.

Article 148. With the endorsement of this Constitution, the Basic Principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan are nullified. Statutes and legislative documents passed before this Constitution's coming into power can be regarded as enforcible provided they do not contradict this Constitution.

Article 149. This Constitution comes into force with its verification by the Grand Assembly, and with the assent and declaration of the president.

Najibullah News Conference, Assembly Analyzed

BK031017 Hong Kong AFP in English 0908 GMT 3 Dec 87

[By Anne Penketh]

[Text] Kabul, Dec 3 (AFP)—Afghan leader Najibullah struck a resolutely optimistic note this week, saying he was convinced that progress could be made on resolving the Afghan conflict at the upcoming Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

But his statement at a news conference Tuesday was in sharp contrast with the general assessment made by Western diplomats here, who say that "nothing will change" as a result of Mr Najibullah's offer put forward last Monday to bring the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops out of the country in 12 months or less.

The diplomats, who noted that Mr Najibullah's proposal was timed to coincide with the run-up to next week's summit at which Afghanistan is expected to feature high on the agenda, pointed out that neither Afghans nor Soviets had stated when the widthdrawal would start.

The other key question, concerning who would join a future coalition government, is a bleak reminder that tough negotiations lie ahead, the diplomats said.

Diplomatic sources here agree that both poles of political influence in Afghanistan: Peshawar, the Pakistani city where the main resistance leaders and three million refugees are based, and Kabul, must be represented in a coalition.

But the Western-backed armed opposition will not talk to the communist Soviet-backed government of Mr Najibullah, and "you can't have a coalition government without the participation of the opposition," one diplomat said.

Meanwhile the Afghan leader has strengthened his position still further by being elected president of the country, in addition to general secretary of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Diplomats said the election was likely to anger the resistance even more through his use of a traditional gathering, the "Loya Jirgah" for "party ends." Mr Najibullah was sole candidate and will hold office for seven years.

"The Soviets are reluctant to drop the communists" in Afghanistan, which would be the only way to attract opposition forces into a coalition, according to one diplomat.

The new president is resolutely pressing ahead against all the odds with his national reconcilation policy, which he says has led to the return of 100,000 refugees and 30,000 armed rebels in the 10 months since the policy was declared.

He has also renewed his appeals to the opposition to talk—appeals which they have systematically spurned in the past.

At the same time, in his news conference Tuesday, he challenged "those people who say they control 90 percent of the country" to take part in national elections—under the umbrella of the PDPA-controlled National Front—to elect a national assembly in six months time. He defied them to prove through the ballot box that they commanded a real majority.

As far as the Afghans themselves are concerned, according to sources with contacts in the community, there is universal support for an early withdrawal of the locally-unpopular Soviets, who live barrack-style in one district of the capital city.

There is reportedly grass-roots support for deposed King Zahir Shah to return from Italy as a figurehead in a transitional government, as one of the few nationally-known personalities who commands respect.

But not all the exiled resistance groups would favour a return of the former king, and there is friction between different sectors of the Afghan population in its diaspora.

The people inside the country feel they are suffering more than the exiles in Pakistan, who have "more comfortable lives" in the refugee camps, while those in Peshawar believe they are suffering more than those who "live in the lap of luxury" in the West, according to one diplomat.

"It's very difficult to be optimistic" about a settlement, another diplomat said. But he held out some hopes that the summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, involving the two main players in the almost eight-year conflict, might give a new impulse to negotiations.

Mr Najibullah stressed that the ball is now in the court of the opposition and its arms supplier, the United States.

"If the United States stops giving weapons to the extremist forces, they do not have the capability of causing bloodshed," he told reporters.

But according to diplomats, the rebel forces have stockpiled enough weapons to be able to carry on fighting for up to two years if the supply line from Washington is cut.

Mujahidin Advance To Defend Siege of Khowst

BK041215 Hong Kong AFP in English 1119 GMT 4 Dec 87

[By Gilles Bertin]

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 4 (AFP)—Several thousand Afghan guerrillas have left northwest Pakistan to throw back an advancing column of Soviet and Afghan troops trying to break the mujahidin siege of Khowst, sources said Friday.

Food in Khowst, home to 40,000 people, has risen in price by between 500 and 1,000 percent—when it can be found—and the town in the northeastern Afghanistan Province of Paktia can no longer be regularly supplied by air-drop, Afghan Government and mujahidin sources said.

The situation in the town is "close to famine," they said.

The mujahidin have bases astride the Afghan-Pakistan border some 60 kilometres (40 miles) east of Khowst.

The sources said that several thousand reinforcements have left the Miram Shah region in northwest Pakistan to try to halt the Soviet and Afghan Government advance on Khowst.

The guerrillas hold the high ground around Khowst, blocking the advance of Soviet-Afghan troops on the plain surrounding the town.

For two weeks, armoured Soviet-Afghan columns have been trying to re-open the Kabul-Khowst road via the Sataw-Kandaw Pass, more than 3,000 metres (6,600 feet) high, which has been held by Afghan rebels since 1980, the sources said.

In August 1979 a major convoy escorted by Afghan Army tanks was destroyed on this road, one of the key factors leading to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December, observers noted here.

In an effort to break the siege, the Soviet command has been using SU-25's, one of the Soviet Union's most modern aircraft capable of low-level attack and rapid ascent so as to escape out of range of anti-aircraft missiles.

The situation in Khowst has become steadily worse in the past few weeks. Supplied by air for the last seven years, aircraft can no longer land or make regular air-drops of supplies, the sources said.

One aircraft was shot down last week by the mujahidin who have U.S. Stinger and British Blowpipe missiles as well as anti-aircraft batteries, diplomatic sources said.

Khowst is defended by a large Afghan garrison backed up by Soviet units, diplomatic and mujahidin sources said.

For his part, Afghan leader Najibullah Tuesday threatened the mujahidin besieging Khowst with "bloody reprisals" unless they halted their attack and went over to Kabul's side.

The seven main mujahidin groups who have joined forces for the attack on Khowst are under Jallaludin Haqqani of the moderate Hezb-e Eslami Khalis group led by Yunis Khalis. Both men recently visited the United Nations from where Mr. Khalis returned to Peshawar and Mr. Haqqani to the Khowst region to supervise the siege.

Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, leader of a radical Hezb-e Eslami group, one of the most important mujahidin groups based in the northwestern Pakistan town of Peshawar, recently made an inspection tour of the Khowst frontline, the organisation said.

Experts here said the latest fighting around Khowst could lead to an increase in incidents and tension on the Afghan-Pakistan border as most mujahidin reinforcements come from camps on Pakistan territory.

Bangladesh

Ershad on State of Emergency, Political Solution

BK040620 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad has said the politics of destruction and terrorism let loose in the name of movement has been seriously affecting social peace, national economy, and stability. It is also hampering the interest and cause of the common people. Addressing the divisional and district level officers in Chittagong yesterday, he said this is more serious in the wake of the recent unprecedented floods in which the losses to crops and property ran well over 3,000 crore taka. The president said there are democratic norms to ventilate one's opinion about any government, but terrorism and vandalism, which mark the present movement in the name of democracy, cannot deliver goods to the nation.

He called upon the people to understand the real design behind the movement instead of judging it on face value. Such movements will ultimately hit the very basis of the country. He also urged all to build up social resistance against anarchy and terrorism. The president said being reposed with the responsibility of running the country by the electorate, he has a duty to the nation and as such, we have to proclaim the emergency to safeguard the national interests. We firmly believe that political problems can be solved politically without jeopardizing national economy, social peace, and stability. We are now releasing the detenues to create a climate to settle political problems through discussions.

He also asked the government officials to be true and sincere to their duties and responsibilities.

Talks Between Ershad, Parties Reach Stalemate

BK031047 Hong Kong AFP in English 1008 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 3 (AFP)—The Bangladesh opposition, which has ignored President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's peace overtures, is building up to an acid test Monday when it has called for a general strike to oust him, observers say.

At the same time pressure appears to be mounting on Mr Ershad to convince the nation that he is capable of imposing law and order and reviving the ailing economy.

Since the united opposition launched a series of strikes and protests on November 10, in defiance of increasingly strong counter-measures by the government, the fragile economy of one of the world's poorest nations has taken a serious battering.

Mr Ershad has made overtures towards the opposition since announcing a state of emergency Friday, most notably by releasing nine opposition figures Monday and Tuesday and reducing the duration of a curfew imposed in five major cities in an apparent bid to woo them to the negotiating table.

He has said he is willing to discuss holding general elections earlier than scheduled but refuses to countenance opposition calls for him and his government to resign.

But the 21 opposition parties, united around the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed, and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) led by Begum Khaleda Zia, have remained deaf to all approaches, including the offer to consider early general elections. They say Mr Ershad, who seized power in a bloodless coup five years ago, and his government must go before any talks.

The situation has reached stalemate with no indications of any improvement and both sides now have until Monday, when the opposition has called for a nationwide general strike, to establish popular support for their opposing views, observers here said.

The government may yet make more concessions if its overtures are met, reliable sources said. But it had given no more ground Wednesday.

"A little bait is all that is needed for the government to liberate the two opposition leaders," said one observer, referring to Sheikh Hasina and Begum Zia, both under house arrest since November 11.

Mr Ershad had been hoping for that the agitation movement would run out of steam, but his decision to declare a state of emergency "to re-establish law and order" suggests he was losing faith in this hope, observers said.

There is also a question mark over what has been seen as the fragility of opposition unity. Many observers saw the opposition union as one forged simply to force the president's resignation. But the opposition has stood firmly unified in calling for Monday's strike and setting about organising rallies beforehand.

Bangladesh's economy has been lurching since November 10. This country of 100 million people is already one of the world's poorest and has been losing, according to the president, about 50 million dollars a day since then.

But the state of emergency has not helped, observers said, noting that factories were still closed Tuesday and there have been provincial strikes.

Many poorer people have been affected, caught between two fires—the opposition pressing them to strike and the government pressing them to work.

BBC Correspondent on Jamiat Resignations

BK031354 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] As attempts continue in Bangladesh to unseat President Ershad, 10 opposition members of parliament have resigned. Because of reporting restrictions in Bangladesh, Mark Tully files this report from the Indian capital Delhi.

[Begin Tully recording] According to *United News of India*, the acting amir or leader of the Jamiat-i Islami, a Muslim fundamentalist party, told a news conference in Dhaka that all his 10 members of parliament had resigned their seats. The amir said that the MP's were resigning in deference to the wishes of the people who, according to him, were demanding the resignation of the government. The Jamiat has suggested that other opposition parties should ask their MP's to resign too.

According to the latest reports reaching London, the Awami League held a meeting to discuss resigning yesterday and is holding another one today. One group within the party is opposed to a dissolution of parliament. They would prefer this parliament to stay on and alter the Constitution to bring it closer to the Westminster pattern instead of General Ershad's presidential system.

According to reports reaching London, one suggestion being canvassed in the informal contacts the government has established with the opposition parties is that General Ershad should resign as the leader of his Jatiya Party so that he can conduct elections independently. He has already offered to hold fresh elections. According to these reports the hawks in the Jatiya Party are strongly opposed to General Ershad giving up the leadership.

It is not possible to gauge reports from the informal contacts which appeared to have been established between the government and some of these opposition parties because of the restrictions on reporting introduced under the emergency. The government has now stopped direct dial telephone services from Dhaka to London, according to several people contacted in the Bangladeshi capital. [end recording]

Information Minister Says Situation 'Normal'

BK031631 Hong Kong AFP in English 1606 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 3 (AFP)—A government minister Thursday said the situation in Bangladesh was returning to normal after last week's declaration of a state of emergency and he was optimistic about a proposed dialogue with the opposition.

"The government is optimistic about the success of its initiative for holding meaningful dialogue" so as to reach a "peaceful solution of the crisis" facing the country, Information Minister Anwar Zahid said here.

The official BSS news agency quoted Mr Zahid as saying that President Hussain Mohammad Ershad was forced to proclaim the state of emergency and ban all political activity because the government could not allow the country "to be plunged into lawlessness and uninterrupted violence in the name of political activities."

Mr Zahid also expressed his regret over some reports in a section of the "foreign press," saying they were far from the truth.

He cautioned that the government would not take a lenient view of any violation of the state of emergency rules by the press.

His speech came hours after the rightist Jamiat-i Islami Party announced its decision to withdraw all its 10 members from the 330-seat parliament and called on the Awami League and other opposition groups to give up their seats.

Parliament Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury told *Agence France-Presse* when contacted by telephone that he had not yet received any formal resignation from the Jamiat-i Islami MP's.

Meanwhile, the authorities Thursday announced the ban on a weekly Bengali publication for printing "objectionable articles" in its October 25 issue.

BSS said the latest edition of the "*Robbar*" weekly, a sister publication of the *Ittefaq* and *New Nation* newspapers, had been confiscated and a ban imposed on subsequent issues.

Bengali Weekly ROBBAR Banned 3 Dec

BK031602 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] According to an official handout issued in Dhaka today, the government has banned the publication of the Bengali weekly, *Robbar*, for publishing objectionable articles.

Curfew Update for Urban Areas 3 Dec

BK031624 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Curfew will be in force from 2200 [1600 GMT] tonight to 0600 tomorrow morning in the metropolitan areas of Dhaka, Chittagong, and Khulna, Rajshahi, and Narayanganj towns. There will be no curfew from 0600 tomorrow morning to 2200 tomorrow night in these areas. The industrial areas of Adamji, Patulla and Demra in Dhaka and Narayanganj and (Pulvahar) industrial area in Chittagong have been exempted from curfew.

India

Reported LTTE Downing of Helicopters Denied

BK011610 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 1 Dec 87

[Text] The peacekeeping force [PKF] has been actively involved in intensive search operations for recovering arms and ammunition held by the LTTE in violation of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today the PKF during search operations has recovered substantial amount of arms and explosives. Apart from this, the operations have resulted in the elimination of LTTE's capability to manufacture indigenous mines, booby traps, rockets, and grenades.

During the last 24 hours, nine PKF personnel were killed and five injured.

An official spokesman in New Delhi today described as totally baseless a report appearing in a section of the press that the LTTE had captured two T-72 tanks of the PKF and shot down three helicopters using Stinger missiles. The report also said that some 12,000 PKF troops are likely to be pulled out from Sri Lanka. The spokesman said the whole report is a figment of someone's frivolous imagination. He clarified that no tanks of the PKF have been captured by the LTTE nor have any PKF helicopters been downed as the LTTE does not possess any Stinger missiles.

Gandhi on Gulf War, 'Pakistani Nuclear Bomb'

NC031347 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT
3 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 3 Dec (MENA)—Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has described the ongoing Gulf war as vile and bad. He denied that India is undertaking any mediation between the warring parties, asserting that the UN secretary general's initiative is a positive one that should be backed. [passage omitted]

In an interview with Mahfuz al-Ansari, the *Al-Jumhuriyah* editor in chief, the Indian prime minister expressed his belief in the possibility of finding a way out of the present predicament in the Gulf through a skillful phrasing of an acceptable solution. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question on nuclear arms manufacture in India, Gandhi denied that India possesses nuclear arms. In this regard, he said: We refrained from manufacturing nuclear arms out of our conviction that they endanger humanity, rather than because of restrictions imposed on us, or because we lack the financial and scientific means.

Today, Gandhi continued, we are not sure that we can do the same thing or take the same stand regarding the Pakistani nuclear bomb. We have tried to explain the situation to Pakistan's friends to dissuade it from continuing its military nuclear program, he added.

Opposition to Nonproliferation Treaty Cited

BK031606 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] India will not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty under pressure from any source. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today that our opposition to the treaty is a principle and consistent one. The treaty is discriminatory and inequitive.

The minister said the country has no intention of changing its known position.

Faleiro Cautions on Pakistan Nuclear Program

BK04655 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] India has called for steps to prevent Pakistan going nuclear and cautioned this would force New Delhi to abandon its restraint. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, said in New York that Pakistan is now very close to manufacturing a nuclear weapon. He was speaking at the India Forum, a group set up by the Indian Consulate General in New York to promote understanding of the country. Mr Faleiro also rejected the idea that India should sign a nuclear nonproliferation treaty, saying it is discriminatory.

Sikh Leader Placed Under 30-day House Arrest

BK031318 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] The Punjab government has directed Prof Darshan Singh to remain at his residence in Veerapur, Pastiala District, and not move out of it for 1 month from today. An order has been served on him by the district magistrate, Patiala, under the Punjab Security Act. This follows information that Prof Darshan Singh's proposed march to Delhi tomorrow could cause grave danger to his life from antinational elements and terrorists, who have infiltrated into Delhi from Punjab.

Prof Darshan Singh has been informed that he has a right to represent to the state government against it. He recently resigned from the post of the chief of Akal Takht, but his resignation has not been accepted by the SGPC so far. Several Akali leaders, including Mr Prakash Singh Badal, have criticized the government for this.

Sikh March to Delhi Banned

BK040634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] The Punjab government has decided not to allow today's proposed march from Fatehgarh Saheb in Patiala to Delhi. The march has been called by [Sikh religious leader] Prof Darshan Singh and some other leaders. According to the state police chief, Mr J.S. Ribeiro, the government has definite information that terrorists have plans to infiltrate amongst the participants to create a serious law and order problem in Punjab and Delhi. He said under the prevailing situation, the government cannot take any risk. Mr Ribeiro said the district administrations have been asked to persuade people not to join the march.

Police Stop Procession

BK040928 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] In Punjab, about 1,000 persons who took out a procession to Delhi were stopped by the police about 500 yards from Gurdwara Fatehgrah Sahib in Patiala. The procession sat in dharna [sit in] on the road blocking the traffic. Among the marchers are the acting president of the unified Akali Dal, Mr Ujagar Singh Shekhwan, and former chief minister, Mr Prakash Singh Badal.

In the Lok Sabha today, the reported house arrest of Professor Darshan Singh Ragi by the Punjab government was sought to be raised by members of both the factions of the Akali Dal. The speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, asked them to give notice under the rules which would be passed on to the government.

External Affairs Official on Chakma Issue

BK030928 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was informed today that the Bangladesh Government has not taken necessary steps to create conditions in the Chittagong Hill areas to enable Chakma refugees to go back. In view of the situation, they are not willing to leave as they do not feel confident of their safety. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, said during question hour that the issue had been discussed at various levels. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, took up the matter with President Ershad at Kathmandu recently. The Bangladesh Government has assured India that it will take back the refugees.

Replying to a supplementary, the minister said the issue is very sensitive and the hurdles are being set up at every step. If Chakma refugees are not taken back by the Bangladesh Government and they do not return or are unwilling to go back, the matter will be considered sympathetically for their settlement.

Sri Lanka To Receive Grant for Reconstruction

BK030958 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Dec 87f

[Text] The government has announced a 25 crore rupee reconstruction and rehabilitation grant to Sri Lanka. The Rajya Sabha was informed today that a team of experts from India will visit that country to make an on the spot assessment and make recommendations about the optimum utilization of this grant.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Warns Kuwait on U.S Bases

LD040936 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Kerman, Dec. 4, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has warned Kuwait against providing the Americans with floating bases in the Persian Gulf waters. "If you give them (the Americans) floating base, you must give us too, otherwise if we seize this base one day in case of a confrontation (in the Persian Gulf), you would have no claim against us," he warned the sheikhdom.

Speaking at a huge gathering of Mohammad (SAW) Corps maneuvers here Thursday, the Majlis speaker said the U.S. claims its presence in the Persian Gulf is to guarantee safe shipping and the security of the world's economic vein (Strait of Hormuz). The Arab countries on the other hand, he said, have always announced they would not give the Americans any base in this strategic waterway. But Kuwait has reportedly decided to provide the U.S. with one.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the day Iran seized Iraq's Al-Faw port (in Feb. 1986), the Kuwaitis decided to provide Iraq with their Bubiyan Island to enable Baghdad take back the coast it had lost to Iran. But Iran warned Kuwait against the consequences of such a move and reminded the sheikhdom if Iran seized the Bubiyan Island, the Kuwaitis would have no claim against the island. Consequently, he said, the Kuwaitis changed their mind. [Words indistinct] organised in 840 battalions, Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council, said "We will never allow the

U.S. approach our coastal waters and set up bases near the sensitive war zone. This (U.S. move) is provocative and our nation will never tolerate such impudence. We also declare that this would never bring security for Kuwait."

"We are confident and declare very seriously that those who overreach themselves, would be slapped in the face by their own nations and by the Muslims of the region, sooner or later," he warned Kuwait.

Musavi-Ardabili Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon

LD041217 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, in his Friday prayer sermons, thanked the massive participation of the popular mobilization forces in the great exercises of the fighters of Mohammad throughout the country, as well as the way various strata of people have responded to the call to go to the battlefields. On the impact of these moves on the morale and thoughts of the enemies, he said: This very positive response to be present on the battlefields was instrumental in making our enemies reconsider their relations with Iran and their continued moves in the region. It was following these exercises and troop dispatches that once again the world came to realize that the revolutionary Iranian nation is still determined to restore its rights despite the hardships and agonies it has endured in the imposed war. This nation will not hesitate to offer its life and wealth for the liberation of Islam.

The president of the Supreme Judicial Council said: Today international powers and criminals, who have concentrated their forces in the Persian Gulf to intimidate and threaten the martyr-giving nation of Iran, admit that they cannot force the Iranian people—a people ready to offer martyrs—out of the arena. By their presence in the ceremonies this week the Iranian people made the United States and its stooges realize that the Iranians are capable of managing the security and tranquility of the Persian Gulf without the presence of the East or the West. The Iranian people have proved that even though they have offered martyrs, have given blood, and have endured hardship, they are still prepared to give more and will never submit to power and bullying.

The president of the Supreme Judicial Coundil stressed: The peoples of the Persian Gulf must cooperate to shoulder the security of this vital and sensitive waterway. This task must not be shouldered by those who have come to the Persian Gulf from the other side of the world, those who come sounding their trumpet and mobilizing their forces, those who are here to take money, to secure bases, and to recruit servants. As we have announced repeatedly, the revolutionary people of Iran desire security, peace, and friendship on the basis of righteousness and justice.

Continuing his remarks, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili addressed those people who feel less responsibility toward the affairs of the war than they should: The absolute beauty of war in Iran is the fact that so far the volunteers have done their part whether by providing human resources or by financing the war. The group making up the majority of the people have so far shouldered the heavy load of this imposed war. That is, although they have offered martyrs, self-sacrificing troops, prisoners, missing in action, and disabled, when there is need for self-sacrifice they voluntarily offer whatever they have to the war. However, the group in the minority must come to feel the same way on their own; they must cultivate a sense of duty. We hope that if there have been individuals who up till now have lacked this sense of duty, they will now develop a sense of responsibility and refrain from placing all the burden of war on others. In the Tehran Friday prayer ceremony the president of the Supreme Judicial Court referred to the international congress on the sanctity and security of the holy sanctuaries and expressed the hope that those responsible for following up the decisions of the congress will achieve the desired results so that all the Muslims who go to Mecca and Madinah on pilgrimage may perform their religious rites with peace of mind.

Musavi Reviews Maneuvers in Tabriz

LD031730 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Tabriz, Dec. 3, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi reviewed grand maneuvers staged by one-million strong popular forces organised in 100 combat divisions, here today. Iranians are determined to safeguard Islam and the Islamic Revolution at any cost, the premier told the huge gathering.

Musavi said that, by relying on the people's firm faith, Islamic Iran severed the hands of the U.S.. "We made it clear to the U.S. that the Islamic Revolution cannot be contained, and that all U.S. political, military and economic conspiracies will be foiled by the mobilization of millions of people all over the country," he added.

"Our weapon is this same support of people which is the most effective one," Musavi noted.

Meanwhile in Zanjan, Prosecutor-General Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Musavi-Kho'iniha watched 145,000-strong volunteer forces organised in 500 battalions which demonstrate their combat power. The volunteers announced their readiness to fight enemies of Islam and the Islamic Revolution.

Larijani, Perez de Cuellar Continue Talks

JN031857 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1740 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar held a third round of talks with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani this morning amid a blackout on the content and results of the talks. However, Larijani is scheduled to hold a news conference tonight at the conclusion of his talks with the secretary general.

In an exclusive interview, our radio asked Larijani if Iran were now ready for a ceasefire. He said: The Iranian guns are fully loaded and ready for firing, but they are also ready to stop firing. Asked if Iran prefers the military solution to ending the war, he said: Nobody prefers a military solution to a peaceful solution. The subject is connected with the capabilities and available opportunities to ensure the success of any of the two solutions. We hope to reach a peaceful solution, otherwise, we would not have come here.

Asked if Iran is ready to negotiate with Iraq at a certain stage, he said: No, we do not consider that useful nor will it lead to peace or an end to hostility.

Last night Larijani held a lengthy meeting with the head of the Soviet delegation, who is chairing the Security Council this month. The Iranian deputy foreign minister described Iranian-Soviet relations as very good, better than ever before.

Asked about the reported new military agreements between Tehran and Moscow, he said: Contacts are continuing between the two countries on defense issues, and this is not ruled out.

Talks between the secretary general and Iran will be concluded today. However, Larijani said he will return if the secretary general asks him to do so, but indicated that he will not be at the United Nations when the secretary general begins his talks with the Iraqi foreign minister early next week.

Larijani Holds News Conference

JN032118 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2010 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from New York, carried within the "Panorama" program]

[Text] The UN secretary general has concluded his negotiations with Iran. Iranian deputy foreign minister stressed that Iran's policy includes calling for the condemnation of Iraq and that this should be declared by the Security Council or the commission cited in the resolution [598 on the Gulf war]. Larijani said this at a news conference at the conclusion of the third and final round of talks with the UN secretary general. Larijani also stressed that the huge military mobilization on the front is unprecedented, adding that the Iranian forces are ready to work efficiently when necessary.

The Iranian official's statements indicate Iran's categorical rejection of a cease-fire before determining the side responsible for the conflict. He said that condemning the aggressor is a political measure that requires little time and that there will be no cease-fire before declaring the side responsible for starting the conflict.

Larijani held the United States and Iraq responsible for the lack of progress in the peace negotiations. He said: We are worried by the slow pace of the peace process. He cited two main obstacles: The first was what he called Iraq's rejection to facilitate the suggestion of the secretary general, and the second was the U.S. naval buildup in the Gulf and hostile actions against Iran.

Within this framework, Iran interprets the secretary general's plan differently. Larijani said this plan begins with two steps: to implement a cease-fire and determine the side responsible for the conflict. He said there will be no cease-fire without first determining the side responsible for the conflict. He also said the Iranian forces will not withdraw. As for the issue of borders, it should be part of the settlement demarcating new borders different from those fixed in Algiers. He also said he presented proposals to the secretary general on this Iranian policy. His statements stressed that he calls on the United Nations to confront what he termed as the United States' violation of Resolution 598 and to shoulder its responsibilities according to its charter in order to define the aggressor.

It is obvious that with the conclusion of talks with Iran and prior to the secretary general's talks with Iraq, the Iranian policy, as announced by the deputy foreign minister, returns matters to square one.

Sheykh ol-Eslam Views Relations With France

LD040909 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 4, IRNA—A senior Foreign Ministry official says the so-called 'war of embassies' between Iran and France ended following "unofficial, secret and direct" talks between the two sides, last week.

Deputy foreign minister for political affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, in a television interview Thursday night, predicted the future of Tehran-Paris relations as "very good" saying mutual ties between the two countries could improve to the level after the 1979 revolution.

"Iran will mutually take a step for any French step to improve bilateral relations," Sheykh ol-Eslam said in the interview also attended by 'Ali Ahani, Foreign Ministry director general for Europe and America, and Hamid Abotalebi, head of the Third Political Department of the ministry.

Sheykh ol-Eslam said the Foreign Ministry on Saturday will decide whether three Iranian diplomats should remain in Tehran's Paris embassy to handle its affairs.

The deputy foreign minister said Iran's negotiations with the French Government were never interrupted but that the talks had been stepped up thanks to the mediation of Syria, Pakistan and Algeria. Each of these countries, he said, were present in certain stages of the talks which he regretted that did not produce favourable results. He said however that Iran was waiting to witness more positive outcomes from these talks.

On Iran's one billion dollar loan to France and its interests and on the claim by the Paris government that asking for interest was against Islamic laws, Sheykh ol-Eslam said Iran's chief justice of the supreme court Ayatollah Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili has announced that receiving interest from non-Muslims is religiously authorised. He said the French would naturally try to pay us less money and instead "we will have our own way in restoring our rights," he said.

'Ali Ahani, another speaker in the interview, denied allegations in the French-press that Vahid Gorji, an Iranian translator at Tehran's Paris embassy, had been freed in exchange for the two Frenchmen who were released by their Lebanese kidnappers in Beirut last week. He described these charges as 'groundless' saying Irano-France talks to normalise relations had been continuing since long time ago.

Ahani also denied rumors of French arms sale to Iran saying the issue was nothing new but rather stemming from domestic disputes between French political factions.

Liberation Movements Seminar Closes 3 Dec

LD041016 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] The seminar of liberation movements and Hezbollah cells of the world of Islam ended its work this afternoon after speeches by several of the participants. According to our reporter, in this afternoon's session the Hezbollah representative of Kuwait, in his remarks on the activities of the Hezbollah of Kuwait against the reactionary rulers of that country and the interests of Western countries in Kuwait, emphasized the need for unity of voice and leadership among the world's Muslim strugglers. In another part of his speech, he referred to the subservience of the rulers of Kuwait to global arrogance and the deeds being committed by that regime against the Muslims of Kuwait. He also spoke of the influence of the Islamic Republic among the region's Muslims and the horror felt by the colonialist powers with the increase in support for Islam in the region.

During the ceremony, the representative of the Iraqi Islamic Da'wa Party pointed to the intensification of the struggles of the Iraqi Muslim people against the Zionist-Ba'thist regime ruling over Iraq. He expressed appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Iran for assisting [yari resandan] the liberation movements and Hezbollah cells of the world of Islam in their struggles against the lackeys of global arrogance.

The representatives of the Islamic Amal movement and the liberation movement of Bahrain also referred to the struggles of the Muslim revolutionaries against regimes that follow the policy of attacking them and stressed the status of Imam Khomeyni as the leader of the Islamic world. The representatives of the liberation movements and Hezbollah cells of the Islamic world, at the end of the gathering, replied to the questions put to them by the participants.

Lebanese POW'S To Be Handed Over to Sha'ban

NC031911 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Stemming from Islamic Iran's humanitarianism, the Islamic Republic of Iran will hand over to Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, eight repentant Lebanese prisoners of war so that they may return to their families. Mohammad 'Ali Navaran, supervisor of the committee in charge of the Iraqi prisoners of war [name and title as heard], has told IRNA that during his meeting with 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the republic and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, Shaykh Sha'ban discussed the release of a number of Lebanese citizens who have been captured by the Islamic forces in the [word indistinct] war. He added that the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, for humanitarian reasons and in view of the ties linking the Muslim people of Iran and Lebanon, had agreed to release the prisoners and return them to their country in the company of Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban.

New Revolutionary Prosecutor on Plans

PM031205 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Nov 87 p 19

[Interview with Morteza Eshraqin, the new revolutionary prosecutor for Tehran, by unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent on 19 November in Tehran]

[Excerpts] Last Thursday, the *Keyhan* correspondent interviewed the new revolutionary prosecutor and asked him about his programs and plans for the future. The prosecutor said that his programs focus on two main points: the formation of a unified organization, without centralizing it in Tehran; and cooperation with the Supreme Judicial Council to amend the revolutionary courts' founding charter.

Our correspondent quotes the new Tehran revolutionary prosecutor as saying: The Tehran Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office will operate as a unified body without being centralized. At present this office has three branches dealing with crimes relating to narcotics, economic crimes, and crimes relating to [political] groupings. It is planned that these three branches should act in a unified but decentralized manner. These various offenses all demand to be dealt with in a specialized manner, but there will be plans to have all these units operating under a unified policy of the Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office.

Eshraqin then talked about his other program: My other plan is to work with the Supreme Defense Council to change the charter which outlines the goals for the creation of the revolutionary court system. The duty of the courts at the beginning of the revolution was to look into crimes committed during the previous regime. A charter was drawn up in accordance with that goal. Today this charter should deal with safeguarding the revolution's achievements.

Accordingly, the responsibilities of the revolutionary court system will be amended, keeping in mind the goals which the lawmakers had in mind when they passed these laws.

With regard to the fight against narcotics, the revolutionary prosecutor announced: One of our major goals today has to be a struggle against drug smugglers. The blows that are dealt against the revolution by these criminals and the effects that they have are no less than those delivered by the groupings. [passage omitted]

Eshraqin discussed economic crimes and said: Another program that the aughorities have given to the revolutionary courts is the investigation of crimes by financial looters and those who have abused the people's wealth and property. [passage omitted]

He then talked about political offenses and said: In this regard the courts were successful, thank God, in the past as far as I am concerned. So far, we have no serious problem in this field. In general, the groupings have disgraced themselves during the past few years, but those who are still supporting them will be dealt with sternly. We shall carry out God's verdict against them, whatever that may be, and we shall not fall short in this regard, nor will we do more than has been determined.

Concerning the pardoning of political prisoners, the new Tehran revolutionary prosecutor said: The pardoning of political prisoners is a matter for the committee set up for this purpose. However, in general I feel that when it comes to groupings and drug smugglers, more care should be taken. We should rid Islamic society of these two corrupt elements and dry up their roots.

Eshraqin then commented on the Supreme War Support Council's order and the cooperation given to that body in terms of judicial assistance for the warriors. He said: The personnel at the revolutionary courts are ready to appear at the fronts alongside the warriors. They are also prepared to look into any court cases that the warriors may have, bypassing others, in order to give these loved ones their support. They will give the warriors first priority.

KEYHAN Interviews Prosecutor General

PM031255 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
22 Nov 87 p 18

[Interview with Prosecutor General Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Kho'iniha by unidentified correspondent on 19 November; place not given]

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'iniha started the interview by commenting on the orders issued by the Supreme War Support Council and by the Supreme Defense Council. With regard to the Ministry of Justice programs, he said: There may be a court case for a warrior, and this could mean that the impending court case would create distractions for the warrior when he is at the warfront. This in turn could mean that he would not be able to concentrate on the fighting. It has been determined that the courts will expedite these cases.

The prosecutor general added: Moreover, sometimes a court case has to be delayed. For example, let us pretend that there is a problem between a warrior and his landlord. If the case comes up, the warrior will have to return from the fronts, get leave, and so forth. This type of case must be deferred for as long as a warrior needs to remain at the front.

He added: The existing laws and the Supreme Defence Council orders allow judges to delay judgment as long as the war continues and there are warriors at the fronts. This way the fronts will not lose even one man. Others will not feel that if someone goes to the war and there is a case pending in the judicial system that involves him, there will be problems for him or for his family. This will also prevent people from thinking that if someone goes to the fronts there is no one to defend him. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'iniha said that the judges have announced their accord in this regard. He added: If there are isolated cases where a court decides to continue its proceedings and if it issues a ruling that might somehow disrupt the battlefields, the Office of Legal Support for Fighters must pursue the case quickly. They must inform the superior organs, such as the Supreme Defense Council or the Prosecutor General's Office, so that the judge in question can be reprimanded and the action stopped. [passage omitted]

The prosecutor general went on to say that the orders issued by courts and judges that cause problems for warriors are only the result of obeying the laws. He said: We must remember that these laws are for ordinary conditions in the country, but when the country is being threatened by the enemy, the peace-time laws cannot be obeyed 100 percent. My suggestion is not that judges set aside all the laws. At the same time, they should not follow the law word for word if it means that harm would be done to the war effort.

He then gave this example: Some time ago one of the warriors who was coming back from the fronts had a car accident which resulted in several people being killed or injured. The prosecutor took the case and the warrior went to jail. The prosecutor and the lawyer did nothing illegal, but to have this warrior sitting in jail is not productive; he could be fighting on the fronts. The court can meet and issue its verdict later, because a warrior is not the type to deny an accident and he is not about to run away. Someone who is sacrificing his life for Islam would not act in such a way. [passage omitted]

Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'iniha continued the interview by commenting on the presence of judges and the Justice Department's personnel at the fronts and added: All judges and employees of the judiciary must go to the fronts as much as possible. Those who are unable to fight can give financial aid or else give the type of legal aid that I talked about.

With regard to the problem of sending judges to the fronts, he said: The Supreme Defense Council has a problem regarding judges who want to go to war. If one judge goes to the fronts, all those people who are waiting for their cases to proceed through his court will lose their turn, and their problems will remain. This is why the Judicial Council has recommended that, when a judge wants to go to war, instead of going to the front lines, he could go to one of the towns near the fronts and carry out his judicial duties there, because many of the cases in such towns relate to the war, the warriors, their families, or their supporters.

Under the present circumstances, if the judges want to fight in the war, we do not see any problems, provided that the work is arranged in such a way that the people's cases are not left pending—with one judge doing double the work. This in itself would help the war effort. [passage omitted]

The next question put to the prosecutor general dealt with the United States and its economic, cultural, and political bases in the country. He said: If we want to paint a picture of U.S. bases in this country, we have to say that any movement, person, or group which undertakes actions that weaken our society's fight against its main enemy, the United States, would be considered a base for the enemy. There are those who take up arms and form teams of assassins to kill ordinary people or officials. They plant bombs and they come to fight the people and the revolution. There are those who loot wealth, or gather unlimited and unbelievable profit, damaging the people's buying power. They aim to cause the people huge problems in their everyday lives and gradually give birth to the idea that the revolution is unable to handle the people's economic needs.

There are also those who portray every problem in society in such a way as to disturb society. All these things hurt the revolution in one way or another.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'iniha then said: For example, with regard to immoral acts, there are times when a person or persons fall into the Devil's trap because of ignorance. This would be an ordinary crime which does not damage the welfare of society as a whole. However, sometimes we find people who as individuals or groups spread immorality, and this damages the basis of the revolution. This movement and its dissemination in society weaken the people in the face of the foreign enemy and prevent them from resisting. So these people and groups become bases for the United States, for the enemy. It makes no difference if these actions are terrorist acts or economic issues.

Take for example the issue of selling goods at high prices: This is an act which under normal conditions would just be nasty. If a person sells something at a high price, we may not even pursue him. However, under the present circumstances, when out of one loaf of bread the people are giving half to the fronts, it is natural that when someone sells things at higher prices or hoards goods he knows that he is weakening the war effort, particularly when he knows that the opposition is the United States. Therefore, by his action he becomes a U.S. base and moves in that direction.

Then there are those who distribute narcotics in society. Our present situation is such that, if even one person gets addicted, in terms of that one person we have lost a body in the fight against the United States. Therefore, the selling and buying of narcotics is a counterrevolutionary act. This sort of action becomes a launch pad for the enemy to deal blows against us. So, the issues of the counterrevolution and the enemy's bases inside the country are not limited only to terrorist activity. Economic terrorists are also considered bases for the United States.

Huge economic centers have been created outside the government, in the private sector. These could turn into major powers and in turn have an effect on policymaking in the country. Intentionally or unintentionally, they would influence the future policies of the country, even the laws of the land, to their own point of view—which aims to accumulate more wealth at the expense of general poverty for the masses. This would suggest that the revolution is incapable of solving the country's economic issues. So they too are U.S. bases.

The prosecutor general continued: On the other hand, these same people instigate false propaganda inside the country to weaken the people in their struggle against the United States. Let us imagine that there is a group that comes forward as political opposition. They come forward and present today's issues, which have come about because of the war, without any political finesse. They present these issues by suggesting that the country's political leaders cannot solve them, issues faced by all countries in the world under wartime conditions.

The United States, with all its financial and military might, has come to fight against us, yet it is facing economic problems at home. [passage omitted]

This kind of propaganda, this political movement is wrong; it is treason. This is exactly what the United States wants, that is, to see the moral problems of the revolution and the war being presented as proof that the revolution itself is wrong. Because we have come across these problems due to the war, then the war is wrong. There is one group right now which is using this propaganda saying that because we have economic problems due to the war, then the war is wrong. Because we did not make peace with Saddam and because we have suffered damag due to the war, then not making pace with Saddam is wrong; we must make peace with Saddam. These people show a lack of political judgment, because this is precisely what the United States is also saying. They say to us: Come and solve your problems with us, and we will remove all your worries. These people all become U.S. bases inside Iran.

On the same subject he added: We do not oppress the political bodies which oppose the present regime. However, if one group wants to use this as an excuse to disturb society as a whole, it will be dealt with sternly.

While the world is pressuring us to compromise and our people want to go to war, these people are adding internal pressure, asking us why we do not compromise—which is what the United States wants. These are U.S. bases.

Of course, these people exist in all walks of life. They could be in the university, a professor, teaching even now. Because of his particular culture, this person becomes a U.S. base by continously preaches tolerance toward to the United States to his pupils. There could be people in our bazaar who are bases for the United States. Of course, by "bazaar" I do not mean the section in town which is covered. I mean all those people engaged in trade, who previously accumulated huge wealth through the sale of oil and petrodollars. It is normal that when they see the sale of oil has dropped and the government cannot provide dollars for them and open letters of credit, their profit-making routes have been closed. Then they cannot import goods to fill the Iranian market. They see that all these things are caused by the war, so they start their propaganda against the war.

Perhaps there are even those in the robes of clergymen, and perhaps they come from all other sectors. All of their actions are in the service of the United States. If these actions hurt the revolution, they will be considered actions against the security of the country, and the revolutionary courts and the judicial system are duty-bound to confront these counterrevolutionary and counter-security acts. [passage omitted]

KEYHAN Interviews Minister of Agriculture

PM031341 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
21 Nov 87 p 16

[Interview with Minister of Agriculture 'Abbas 'Ali Zali by unidentified *Keyhan* correspondent; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The minister of agriculture talked about the agriculture situation in our country and said:

Our country is in a special position. Our revolution is not liked by world aggressors and the growth of population and the need for more food is greater in our country than elsewhere.

With a growth of 3.8 percent, each day there are 5,500 people added to this country's population, which means nearly 2 million people a year. This fact in itself can describe the situation better than anything else. It means that while our country has one-hundredth of the world's population, it has one-fortieth of the total population growth. It is predicted that in 18 years Iran's population will be some 100 million and in 25 years it will reach 130 million.

For this annual rate of growth, if we estimate the population growth to be 2 million per year, each year we would have to grow 300,000 [presumably metric] tons of extra wheat extra. With regard to rice, there must a growth of at least 60,000 tons per year so that the people's general needs are met. Of course, this need is much more when it comes to other items, because with the advance of society the annual consumption also increases.

Zali said: We have to keep in mind the people's pressing need for food and the hatred and animosity that the world aggression has for our revolution. We also have to keep in mind the talent and capabilities existing in Iran, which are evident in many corners of the country and in various provinces. If we pay careful attention to this area, we can produce many times more than we do now. With the dedicated agricultural community, with its small expectations, and with the people's love for farming, it is necessary in every way to think seriously about agriculture without wasting any more time. [passage omitted]

Dr Zali then answered a question on the situation and growth in our country's agricultural production, and future trends. He said: In the past few years regarding the problems that we have been having, thank God, we have had relative growth in agriculture. According to figures released by the Ministry of Planning and Budget, the average growth in the past few years has been around 5 percent. According to this report last year's production of wheat rose by an average of 14.3 percent, barley 12.6 percent, cotton 5.2 percent, sugar beets 24 percent, red meat and dairy products 10 percent, chicken 25 percent, and eggs 4.2 percent; and the rate of increase in fishing from the southern waters was around 50 percent. Catching sturgeon for caviar and other non-caviar fish has increased by 25 percent, and caviar production itself has increased by 13.9 percent.

According to this same report, production in 1985 rose by about 8.9 percent compared with 1984. In 1984, wheat production rose by 6.8 percent, rice 19.4 percent, sugar beets 15.7, and oil-producing grains by 16.9 percent. Although this increase is pleasing, keeping in mind the country's capabilities, the shortages that we have had in the past, and the daily increase in the demand for food, it is necessary to pay more attention to agriculture.

Dr Zali said: In this area, the Ministry of Agriculture has kept several points in mind. The first is the provide the farmers with whatever they need in terms of equipment and farming-related organizations. In order to attract the producers to produce even more, it is necessary to provide all the necessary equipment for farmers at the proper time, because shortages and lack of planning mean confusion for the producers, decreased production, and high prices. It means a lack of incentive for the farmers and could lead to losses for the farmers and a lack of enthusiasm in the producers. It could also lead to the migration of villagers, which would in turn destroy all the government's efforts.

Zali added: So, providing for farmers' needs must be a priority. Fortunately, this important factor has been noted by the government, which is serving the people. God willing, the farmers' problems will soon be over.

Another point that must always be remembered is to support the producers in terms of pricing and distribution. [passage omitted]

The minister of agriculture added: If we want to have a healthy economy, first and foremost, we have to pay attention to agriculture, which includes the expansion of farming industries. If we can provide enough storage facilities and ways to convert agricultural products in order to keep them from rotting, we will be able to feed a great many of our countrymen. At present a good percentage of our vegetables, fruits, apples, tomatoes, and potatoes are spoiled. If we had conversion industries, or else backup mother industries providing storage and creating factories and refrigeration facilities, we could prevent spoilage. For example, something on the order of 280,000 tons of apples, 220,000 tons of citrus fruits, and a large quantity of potatoes spoil every year or else are left with the farmer, who does not know what to do with them. If we had the ability to store them or convert them, we could supplement output. Every year a lot of dates spoil because there is no packaging industry. If these things were provided, agriculture in the south of the country would flourish.

Another issue is the people's investment in agriculture. This field is one which is less dependent. With the prevailing good circumstances and the people's love of farming and if the obstacles and problems were solved, investment in this field would increase.

The minister of agriculture then answered a question on guarantees to farmers that their produce will be purchased. He said: The Ministry of Agriculture puts great emphasis on these guarantees. These guarantees promote increased production; this is done throughout the world. [passage omitted]

He said: Another issue that has the Ministry of Agriculture's attention is regional production. Putting this into circulation would increase services to the farming community, which in turn would mean increased production. In this connection areas have been identified as producing areas, and certain steps have been taken in this regard which we hope will bear good results.

The minister of agriculture talked about the state of crops this year and said: The state of cotton, barley, fodder, rice, sugar beets, fruits, vegetables, and garden vegetables is good this year. As for wheat, because of drought and decreased activity in dry-farming areas, we had 450,000-500,000 tons less wheat production.

Dr Zali was then asked: With all this talk of support for the farmers and growing production, the farmers still have problems with regard to seed and equipment, and this problem increases daily. He replied: We are saying that the farmer must at least get his seed and his equipment on time, so that he does not have to buy these on the black market with a great deal of difficulty. If he does that, whether he wants it or not, production costs will go up and price controls—which is what the people and the government want—will face obstacles. If there is a lack of equipment, the farmer will have to forget about his work day by day, for one reason or another, or else he will have to buy his seed and equipment at very high prices. Then, because he solutions cannot be found in good time and because his voice is not heard, there will be losses due to a lack of equipment. After a time this tends to reduce production, dampens farmers' enthusiasm, and leads to migration, which in turn renders futile the rest of the government's efforts. Dr Zali said: Because of the low degree of dependence in the field of agriculture, currency shortages should not be a problem for this sector. If currency is not released in time to buy seed and equipment for the farming community, much more money will have to be spent later importing foodstuffs. [passage omitted]

Tehran Urges UN Probe of Beirut CW Plant

LD040915 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran has called on the United Nations to investigate a secret plant in Beirut manufacturing chemical weapons for Iraq.

The Central News Unit reports that Mr Rajai'e Khorasani, our country's envoy at the United Nations, has handed a letter to Mr Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, demanding an investigation into an explosion at a secret plant in Beirut that is manufacturing chemical weapons for Iraq. The report adds that the letter, which was circulated as a UN document yesterday, says in part: The Islamic Republic of Iran, in the light of the Iraqi regime's increasing manufacture and use of chemical weapons, demands that the United Nations take immediate steps to investigate the various dimensions of the issue.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,039

LD031606 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—Iraqi eco-military centers in Badra, Zurbatiyah, Khanaqin, Mandali as well as the Banmil oil installation suffered heavy losses in a 24-hour Iranian reprisal artillery shelling which started early Tuesday, said a military communique here Thursday.

The 3039th Joint Staff Communique said that Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and searched five cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday, but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain of their cargo and destination.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields Wednesday raging somewhat more heavily in Talaiyeh and Kushk, southern sector, where Iraqi troops suffered heavy casualties and three enemy vehicles, a munitions dump and several gun emplacements were destroyed.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern and western fronts Wednesday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and setting ablaze 15 gun emplacements and a munitions dump of theirs.

In Panjwin, northwestern sector, several Iraqi tanks were damaged Wednesday when hit by the artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants.

Iranian artillery fire checked movements of Iraqi motorized units in areas overlooking Mehran, Khosrovi, Jassan and Badra, western and northwestern sectors, and prevented Iraqi engineering units from setting up observation posts in Kani-Sheykh Wednesday, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Mirage Shot Down

LD031650 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 3, IRNA—Iranian anti-aircraft gunners shot down an Iraqi Mirage in the "Nasr-8" operational region, northeastern Iraq, Thursday afternoon. There is yet no report on the fate of the pilot.

Communique No 3,040

LD041626 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 4, IRNA—Iranian naval forces intercepted and searched six cargo vessels and tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Thursday, but allowed them to sail on once their cargos and destinations were found, reported the 3040th Joint Staff Communique here today.

The communique said an Iraqi coastal tower was also shelled by Muslim combatants on the same day sustaining some losses.

In the southern fronts combatants of the Iranian Gendarmerie forces destroyed about 15 Iraqi gun emplacements and three military vehicles killing and wounding 10 enemy soldiers.

Iranian forces suppressed vast parts of Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts in addition to despatching patrols to the area. Major losses were inflicted on the enemy troops in the region.

Relocation activities of an Iraqi infantry unit in Halaleh region was checked by Iranian combatants who also silenced fire of Iraqi tanks in Panjwin inflicting some losses on them.

Several Iraqi patrols came under the artillery fire of the Muslim forces in Qasr-e Shirin and Mehran operational regions with enemy patrols fleeing from the area leaving behind some casualties.

Artillery fire of the Iranian combatants on Iraqi armoured units in Faqqeh, Zobeydah, north of Hor and east of Basra silenced enemy fire destroying a number of its tanks, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

Protest Lodged With DRA Over Border Attacks

BK031536 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Afghan forces fired 14 artillery shells on 22 November in the (Kitkot) area of Bajaur Agency, killing one Pakistani. The Afghan forces also fired 22 tank shells last Tuesday [1 December] in the Silman area in the Khyber Agency, injuring an Afghan refugee. Pakistan lodged a strong protest against these attacks with the Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad today.

Spokesman on Early Soviet Withdrawal From DRA

BK031704 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Pakistan has again called for a commitment by the Soviet Union to an early withdrawal of its forces from Afghanistan. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today an agreement on a timetable for withdrawal of Soviet forces would complete the Geneva package and facilitate realization of the settlement envisaged in the Geneva accord. Referring to the declaration of desire by the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, on honest and prompt solution of the Afghanistan problem, the spokesman said Pakistan naturally relied on his desire, but more welcome would be concrete action to sustain the credibility of such statement.

About Kabul's reported offer of a quicker withdrawal timetable, he said it was too imprecise and cleverly qualified to warrant a welcome.

The spokesman referred to moves for unity of action among Islamic countries. He said Pakistan welcomes the decision reached at the Arab summit and hopes these will lead to unity in the entire Muslim world.

About the American economic assistance and military sales package now before Congress, the spokesman said we hope Congress will adopt a just and nondiscriminatory legislation which helps to promote nonproliferation in our region.

Sri Lanka

Hameed on Peace Accord, Foreign Policy

BK041134 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 4 Dec 87

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Shahul Hameed told Parliament that the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement has in no way comprised Sri Lanka's foreign policy. The minister was replying to the discussion on the votes of his ministry, which were later approved. Mr Hameed said that Sri Lanka will continue to follow the path of nonalignment and added that the government did not hope to establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

The minister also referred to the Trincomalee harbor and the facilities provided to the Voice of America broadcasting service and said that the provisions in the Indo-Sri Lanka accord did not alter their status quo. He also rejected the opposition charges that the government had been on a collision path with India since assuming office and said that relations between the two countries were unaffected since 1983.

Mr Hameed said that the Indian Army did not come to Sri Lanka for battle, but they were drawn into the conflict by subsequent events. The Muslim, Sinhala, and Tamil people are all facing hardship in the Eastern Province. He added that there was a possibility of a change in the situation if the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party had continued to participate in the all party conference convened in 1984.

Witnesses to Policeman's Shooting Found

BK041143 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1040 GMT 4 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 4 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Detectives investigating last Wednesday's murder of the head of the Counter Subversion Division (CSD) of the Sri Lanka Police, Superintendent of Police Terrence Perera, have found that there were several eyewitnesses who said that they could identify the gunman, who pumped 8 bullets at the senior policeman with a T-56 automatic rifle, police told *Lanka Puwath* today.

They said that it had to be someone with experience in handling a sophisticated T-56 rifle who shot at his victim with such accuracy.

The head of the CSD had left his home at Udumulla Road Battra Battoramulla and driven about 150 yards to the main road intersection when he had found a bicycle placed in the path of his car, a white Nissan.

The waiting gunman along with an accomplice, the rider of the motor cycle which was the getaway vehicle, had then opened fire the shots piercing the glass windows shutters.

Superintendent of Police Terrence Perera was in charge of the CSD investigations into the subversive activities of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP).

Clashes Between Separatists, IPKF Continue

Upsurge in Fighting

BK031005 Hong Kong AFP in English 0925 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Colombo, Dec 3 (AFP)—At least 27 people,including four children and nine Indian soldiers, have been killed in fresh fighting between Tamil guerrillas and Indian troops, officials and an *Agence France-Presse* correspondent reported Thursday.

Police clamped a 24-hour curfew Thursday in the Batticaloa District, 300 kilometers east of here, following the new clashes Wednesday, officials here said.

The correspondent, the first from a Western news agency to report from eastern Sri Lanka, said he had counted 18 bodies in and around the Ottamawadi village, the scene of a clash Wednesday.

Several houses were still in flames, 10 hours after the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed an Indian convoy triggering heavy fighting, the correspondent said. He said Indian soldiers using helicopters cordoned off the area and stepped up search operations, hunting for LTTE fighters in the coastal Batticaloa District.

Before Wednesday's clashes, at least 41 people including 17 Indian soldiers had died since Sunday as the LTTE stepped up its campaign.

Seven bodies of Moslems were brought to the mosque at Valachchenai, about 30 kilometers north of Batticaloa. One of the victims was a year-old girl while another was a man identified as Ismail, a local correspondent for a Tamil language newspaper published in Colombo.

Officials in Colombo, quoting first reports from the battle zone, said nine Indians had died when the LTTE attacked with mortars, rockets, grenades and small arms.

Indians used tracked armoured personnel carriers in their riposte, officials said.

They said Indian troops inflicted heavy casualties on the LTTE and admitted that some civilians were caught in the cross fire. The officials did not give figures.

A police spokesman said hundreds of people fled the crowded Ottamawadi village as LTTE fighters under the cover of civilians attacked the Indians.

"We have reports of some civilian casualties, but there is no one left in the village for us to interview," a police spokesman in the area said Wednesday night.

New Delhi launched a major offensive against the LTTE when it rejected a July 29 Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord aimed at ending four years of Tamil separatist violence and refused to lay down arms in line with the agreement.

More than 285 Indian soldiers and more than 950 rebels have died in nearly two months of fighting in Sri Lanka's Northern and Eastern Provinces which have been under a night curfew since the October 10 offensive.

Indian Spokesman Comments

BK031618 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Dec 87

[Text] Five LTTE men were apprehended and a large quantity of arms and ammunition recovered during the search operations by peacekeeping force [PKF] in Jaffna in the past 24 hours. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi this evening that the searches were made on the basis of information provided by the hardcore LTTE cadres, who have surrendered without resistance to the PKF in the last 2 days.

According to our correspondent in Jaffna, one more hardcore LTTE member surrendered to the PKF today with arms.

The spokesman said that in the eastern sector, 9 PKF members were killed and 10 wounded yesterday when the LTTE fired on a search party at a village in Batticaloa. He said the PKF returned the fire and in the exchange 24 persons were killed and 21 injured. The LTTE also fired on the PKF at another place in the same sector. The fire was returned but no casualty is reported. The spokesman said the LTTE is using the civilians as a shield in this sector also.

The LTTE today burned a bus near Chavakachcheri after clearing the passengers. The president of the Chavakachcheri citizens committee told newsmen that the PKF is doing everything to protect their interest.

Indian Press on LTTE Moves

BK041047 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0955 GMT 4 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 4 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Three northern Sri Lankan terrorists allegedly involved in the robbery of cash and gold jewellery from a house at Rajeswari Nagar near Viragumbakkam, a Madras city suburb, were arrested last Wednesday by the police at Chingleput East, who had earlier arrested 28 northern Sri Lankan terrorists also for armed robberies.

Indian press reports monitored by *Lanka Puwath* state police also seized a loaded pistol, 2 hand grenades, switchblades and the stolen cash and gold jewellery from Beelan alias Araska alias Joseph (23) and Sivados alias Jute (26) and Moorthy alias Krishnamoorthy alias Anthony (40).

Efforts were being made to apprehend Mohan, described by police as being the leader of the terrorist robber gang.

The Indian press reports also state the Youth Congress (I) in Ramesweran has sent telegrams and petitions to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, seeking that the island be rid of LTTE terrorists.

The Youth Congress (I) has claimed that LTTE terrorists were shuttling between Ramesweran and Sri Lanka at least once a week, transporting large quantities of foodstuffs. The terrorists had four boats and a jeep at their command.

According to the Youth Congress (I), pilgrims were reluctant to visit the holy island due to the presence of the LTTE terrorists who were carrying on a propaganda campaign against the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

Meanwhile, the Indian customs fired at an LTTE boat engaged in smuggling at Vedaranyam in south India, killing Roopan (25) an LTTE terrorist.

Tamil Nadu police said Roopan was one of four LTTE terrorists arrested last October 14 under the Passport Act, when they landed in a boat at Nagapu Nagapattiuam harbour, and were later released on bail.

'Terrorists' Attack Civilians

BK041033 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0940 GMT 4 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 4 (*Lanka Puwath*)—LTTE terrorists made a second attack on civilians in Jaffna, when they hurled two grenades at residents collecting rations at Kaithadi near Navatkuli, about 10 kilometers south east of Jaffna at 0900 hours (local time) last Wednesday morning.

Reports reaching *Lanka Puwath* today from Jaffna state no one was injured in the attack.

At Vedamarachchi, north east of Jaffna, LTTE terrorists shot and wounded one of their members who attempted to surrender to the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF).

Indian troops were reported to have captured 22 pistols, [words indistinct] 800 rounds of ammunition, small arms, mortars, mines, grenades and remote control devices, in search operations in the Jaffna Peninsula since Wednesday (December 2).

A report from Mannar states that an IPKF naval unit captured a boatload of 1,600 detonators and its crew of four LTTE terrorists.

Meanwhile intelligence reports state that a large number of LTTE cadres have moved to the Eastern Province and using civilians as human shields as they did in Jaffna.

Intelligence reports state that the remaining LTTE cadres in Jaffna are bottled up at Vadamarachchi and Chmdumalai-Moolai.

Heavy losses are being inflicted by the IPKF on the LTTE in these areas.

Intelligence reports also reveal that the reason for the mass surrender of 110 LTTE cadres earlier this week was the rehabilitation package offered by the IPKF, disillusionment with the LTTE leadership which forced hundreds of wounded LTTE members to swallow cyanide capsules after being wounded in battle and the realisation that the LTTE cadres were fighting not for Eelam, but the personal glorification of leaders like Prabhakaran and Mahatiya.